



'Clinton should stay at home, marry Lewinsky'

MOSCOW (R) — On the eve of a long-awaited summit between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and U.S. President Bill Clinton, a nationalist deputy in the Russian State Duma has urged Clinton to stay at home and marry Monica Lewinsky. While his low-deputy status may not carry much weight, the political crisis in Russia has prompted the American president to leave his wife, Lewinsky, a former White House intern with whom he has admitted to having an "inappropriate relationship."

Orient Express returns to Istanbul after 18 years

ISTANBUL (AP) — The famed Orient Express rolled into Istanbul on Tuesday after an 18-year absence. A jamboree of playing old Ottoman music and people dressed in 19th-century costumes greeted the 120 passengers — elegant ladies and gentlemen in Panama hats — at Sirkeci train station. The Orient Express, which operated from 1881 to 1914, was the first ever international luxury express train.

Barcelona's Fata Cafe falls out of favour

BARCELONA (AP) — Just as the city's glitzy opening season was getting underway, the Fata Cafe, a popular hangout for the city's elite, has already lost its allure. The manager admitted that the cafe's returns were falling close to zero. The cafe, which opened in 1996, had been the initial focus of the city's tourism boom. The cafe's manager said that the cafe's location, near the city's main club and shopping areas, was not ideal.

Tyson, in fender-bender, restrained by own bodyguards

GAITHERSBURG, Md. — Mike Tyson, involved in a fender-bender accident and restrained by his own bodyguards, was the driver of the car that hit a police car. The police car was hit by the back of the Tyson car. The police car was hit by the back of the Tyson car. The police car was hit by the back of the Tyson car.

'Top secret party' in Alaska

JUNEAU, Alaska — A top-secret party was held in a remote Alaskan town. The party was held in a remote Alaskan town. The party was held in a remote Alaskan town. The party was held in a remote Alaskan town.

Clinton calls Arafat, Netanyahu on peace

DURBAN (AFP) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat Wednesday night received an urgent phone call from President Bill Clinton after telling Non-Aligned Movement leaders the United States was stalling the Mideast peace process, an official said. Arafat's spokesman told the SABA news agency that Arafat delayed a meeting with embattled Congo President Laurent Kabila to talk to Clinton — currently holding crisis talks in Russia. However, he could not provide any details of the conversation. In Moscow, a high-ranking U.S. official said that Clinton had also telephoned Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in a bid to revive the stalled peace process. "Very slow progress is being made... it is frustrating," said the official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Jordan Times

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Price: Jordan 200 fils

NAM Summit opens Mandela, Annan urge measures to cut Third World's 'unbearable debt'

DURBAN (AFP) — President Nelson Mandela pleaded for action to ease the developing world's "unbearable debt" as a priority when he on Wednesday took the chair of the 113-nation Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summit. In a speech at the opening of the NAM's 12th summit, the South African leader and host highlighted the "burden of unbearable debt" as "one of the most immediate challenges that faces the developing countries and their partners in the south."



Delegation leaders pose for a group photo at the 12th Non-Aligned Movement Summit in Durban on Wednesday (AP photo)

His call won the immediate endorsement of U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who called for "much faster and more resolute action to relieve the unsustainable debt burden currently borne by many developing countries, especially the poorest."

Representing King, Rifai meets with world leaders at summit

DURBAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Zeid Rifai, representing His Majesty King Hussein at the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summit, met separately Wednesday with Sudanese President Omar Hassan Al Bashir, Algerian President Liamine Zeroual and Iranian President Mohammad Khatami and discussed with them bilateral relations, regional and international issues of common concern.



Senate Speaker Zeid Rifai shakes hands, Wednesday, with South African President Nelson Mandela and his wife Graca Michael during the Non-Aligned Movement summit in Durban (Petra photo)

Rifai also discussed with United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan regional and international issues, including the stalled Middle East peace process. In two separate meetings, Rifai reviewed with Syrian and Iraqi vice presidents Abdul Halim Khaddam and Taha Yassin Ramadan bilateral relations and other issues of common concern. The Senate speaker also met with the foreign ministers of Kuwait, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Tunisia and Lebanon. Rifai also met with Pakistani Foreign Minister Saraj Aziz and conveyed to him a message from His Majesty King Hussein. The message, addressed to Pakistani Premier Nawaz Sharif, dealt with regional issues. South African President Nelson Mandela received Rifai and expressed appreciation for King Hussein's continued support for the NAM and its principles. President Mandela lauded King Hussein's efforts to establish peace, expressing his country's keen desire to develop bilateral relations. President Mandela wished King Hussein a speedy recovery. On Tuesday Palestinian President Yasser Arafat received Rifai and reviewed with him developments of the peace process on the Palestinian-Israeli track. Rifai reaffirmed Jordan's support for the Palestinian position at the NAM Summit. Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Abdul Ilah Al Khatib met with the foreign ministers of Egypt, Iran and Lebanon and discussed with them means of developing bilateral relations. Khaib participated in the meetings of the NAM's foreign ministers which concluded here today. The foreign ministers adopted a number of decisions supporting Arab causes, and the Arab position towards the Middle East peace process.

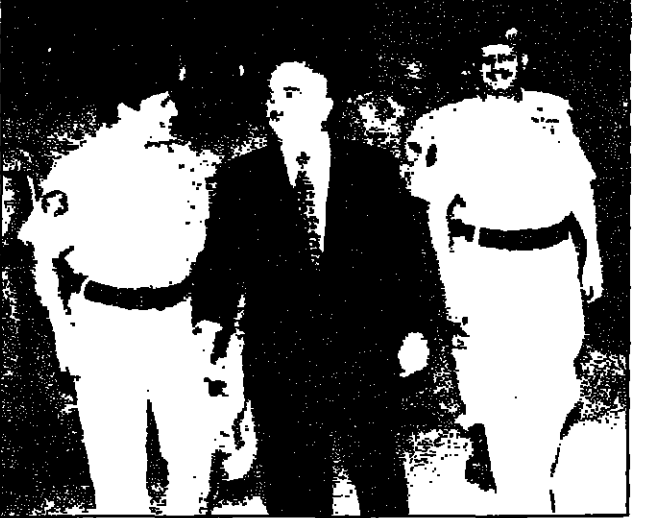
On economic issues, he said it was "high time to reverse the decline in official development assistance" and warned that "globalisation and liberalisation should not be a one-way street — industrialised countries must open their markets to the goods of the developing world."

The movement's longest-serving leader, Cuban President Fidel Castro, also addressed the opening session, warning — during what may have been one of his briefest public addresses ever — of "hard times" ahead for developing countries. "A deep and already inevitable global economic crisis of unpredictable consequences is threatening us," the bearded Cuban leader said in a speech which lasted barely three of the seven minutes he had been allotted. In a wide-ranging speech opening South Africa's three-year chairmanship of the body which represents the world's developing countries, Mandela highlighted globalisation as the major threat to developing economies. He said Japan's economic woes were due to "an excess of wealth" which contributed "to the creation of poverty" in another part of the world. South Africa, he pledged, would use its chairmanship to strengthen the movement "as well as contribute to its renewal."

Through its work, the NAM "must defeat the hostile offensive which seeks to present this glorious movement representing billions of people as a mere talk shop and an anachronism in world politics."

Attended by Council of Ministers Regent chairs meeting at Army Headquarters

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday chaired a meeting at the Army Headquarters attended by the Council of Ministers during which the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Marshal Abdul Hafez Merai Kaabneh and his assistants presented a briefing about the role and the duties of the Jordanian Armed Forces, its training exercises and its role in defence and social development, as well as future plans. At the meeting, which was attended by Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh, Chief of the Royal Court Jawad Anani and Commander of the Special Forces HRH Prince Abdullah, the Regent emphasised the state's established policy of providing the Armed Forces with the best possible training and armaments so that they can develop their performance and defence capabilities.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, is flanked by His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Abdul Hafez Merai Kaabneh during a visit to the Army Headquarters (Photo by Boghos)

The Regent pointed to the importance of the growing role of the Armed Forces in the development process within a complementary framework with the other state's institutions, noting that the armed forces have acquired vast experience which can be put to use in the nation's ongoing economic development process. Prince Hassan referred in particular to the Armed Forces production and manufacturing capability which he said can benefit the nation if utilised through coordination with the concerned authorities.

'Nation could benefit from army's production capability in addition to services'

He also said that the nation also benefits from the Armed Forces educational, health and social services which are available to a large sector of the Jordanian society. Prince Hassan said the Kingdom should benefit from the process of defining the state's spending priorities which is being conducted this year. He said that Jordan will adopt a new strategy for development based on a comprehensive study on the needs of the various sectors and worked out in a clear and integrated manner aimed at steering the state's resources towards development.

During the meeting, Tarawneh, who is also defence minister, emphasised the importance of the Armed Forces' defence role pledging that the government will interact fully with the military in defining areas and projects in which government departments and the armed forces can cooperate.

Iraq threatens new action against arms inspectors

Agencies

THE UNITED States and Britain will submit a draft resolution providing for the suspension of regular Iraq sanctions reviews, a British diplomat said Wednesday. Washington and London — who plan to present the resolution Thursday — both continued to consult with other U.N. Security Council members Wednesday on the draft. China, France and Russia are pressing for the council to promise a "comprehensive review" of the sanctions issue, diplomats said. But, Iraq threatened Wednesday to take new, unspecified measures if the U.N. Security Council adopted the proposal. Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz said suspension of the review would mean nothing to Iraq and it would not back down on its August 5 decision to suspend cooperation with U.N. weapons inspectors. "Iraq... cannot remain idle toward negative and aggressive resolutions that might be adopted by the council under American pressure, but it would take new decisions," Aziz said in a statement, copies of which were handed to reporters. Aziz did not specify what the decisions might be but said they would be taken "in light of the decision taken by the leadership on August 5 and those taken by the National Assembly [parliament]."

result means nothing to Iraq," He said: "If the Security Council adopt the American-British project resolution, it means the council does not pay serious attention to Iraq's legitimate demands included in the statement by Iraq's leadership on August 5."

In a letter to Butler on Aug. 27, Ritter slammed the U.S. government, which publicly demands the tightest control of Iraqi facilities, and said UNSCOM was now "hobbled... by unfettered Iraqi obstruction and non-existent Security Council enforcement of its own resolutions."

Calling for Palestinian state Mandela assails Netanyahu's government for blocking peace

DURBAN (AP) — President Nelson Mandela on Wednesday accused Israel of blocking Mideast peace, saying Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's administration had "narrow, chauvinistic interests."

summit, denied Netanyahu's assertion that Israeli and Palestinian negotiators had been close to restarting talks on Israeli troop withdrawal from the West Bank. "There is nothing close," Arafat told the Associated Press. "There is still a far distance."

Arafat rejected Netanyahu's claim that the Palestinians were holding up progress, saying the Netanyahu administration has refused to accept Washington's peace initiative for the region. Mandela, who greeted

Albright: Ritter does not understand U.S. policy

Albright, interviewed by CNN's Late Edition, did not deny accusations by the veteran American inspector, Scott Ritter, that she and other U.S. leaders

Ritter had frequently clashed with Iraqi officials, who have sought to stymie the U.N.-mandated destruction of its biological, chemical and nuclear weapons capabilities ordered after the 1991 Gulf war. In a letter to Butler on Aug. 27, Ritter slammed the U.S. government, which publicly demands the tightest control of Iraqi facilities, and said UNSCOM was now "hobbled... by unfettered Iraqi obstruction and non-existent Security Council enforcement of its own resolutions."

Israel says North Korea missile test 'dangerous development'

BEIJING (R) — Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said in Beijing on Wednesday that North Korea's test-firing of a ballistic missile was a "dangerous development" in light of its close ties with Israeli foes Iran and Syria.

"I think there are two dangers here — one that North Korea has this capability and the other that it has ties and relations with countries like Iran and Syria," Mordechai told reporters.

"There is no doubt that this development and this capability is a dangerous development," Mordechai said after a 90-minute meeting with Chinese President Jiang Zemin.

Israeli intelligence officials have said North Korea is helping Iran develop ballistic missiles through the transfer of technology.

North Korea on Monday test-fired a newly developed ballistic missile, shooting it over Japanese sovereign territory, Japan's Defence Agency said.

Japanese leaders expressed outrage and pledged to protest the move.

North Korea's shock test-firing of the missile over Japanese islands and into the Pacific Ocean has also drawn expressions of concern from South Korea, the United States and Russia.

Analysts said the firing

represents a new threat by Stalinist Pyongyang, which has never officially ended the Korean war and frequently refers to Japan and the United States as war-mongers.

North Korea is believed to be a major exporter of military hardware, including missiles to some Third World countries, with earnings estimated by one analyst at \$1 billion a year.

The test-firing comes as the United States and North Korea have hit another impasse over an agreement calling on the North to freeze its nuclear weapons development, and as Pyongyang appears to be preparing to elevate de

facto leader Kim Jong-il to the post of president this month.

North Korea and the United States agreed four years ago that Pyongyang would freeze its nuclear programme in exchange for two light-water reactors, to be built by a consortium led by the United States, South Korea and Japan.

The United States also promised to deliver 500,000 tonnes of fuel oil annually as an alternative energy source until the reactors were operating.

But the U.S. Congress has blocked funds for the oil supplies because of reports North Korea supplied missiles to Pakistan.



IRANIAN MILITARY EXERCISES NEAR AFGHANISTAN: Iranian soldiers wave to an helicopter Wednesday near the Afghan border during unprecedented military exercises. Tehran, which has voiced fears of possible security threats from the Taliban rule in the neighbouring country, accused the militia of engaging in drug trafficking to Europe via Iranian territory and is angry over the alleged captivity of 10 Iranian diplomats seized by the militia after its takeover of Mazar-i-Sharif on August 8 (AFP photo)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kuwait's illegal aliens offered amnesty

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait on Wednesday gave illegal aliens until October 15 to leave the oil-rich Gulf Arab state. Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Khaled Al Sabah said all illegal aliens who leave the country under the amnesty can apply to return to Kuwait legally. "During this period, illegal residents who take the initiative to leave the country by themselves can use any exit port without paying fines or suffering penalties," said a ministry statement sent to Reuters. "An illegal resident who leaves the country during the grace period can come back following legal procedures... provided the judicial rulings are respected," the statement added.

Algiers bomb death toll rises to 25

ALGIERS (AFP) — The death toll in a bomb explosion that ripped through a busy marketplace in Algiers rose to 25 after eight more people died from their injuries. Liberte newspaper Wednesday quoted officials as saying. Security services earlier said 17 people died and 61 others were wounded in Monday's blast. The attack, one of the worst the capital has seen recently, broke a period of relative calm in Algiers and showed that the Armed Islamist Group (GIA) fighting the government has not lost its power to strike at Algeria's main city.

Yemen strike suspended, workers freed

SANAA (AFP) — A strike at Yemen's second largest oilfield was suspended for one month Wednesday and four workers who were arrested for inciting the industrial action have been released, a trade union official said. About 1,300 employees of Yemen Hunt went on strike Tuesday demanding social and medical insurance and compensation for their high-risk work at the oilfield and refinery operated by U.S.-based Hunt Oil Company. "The strike has been suspended and we have given the management one month" to implement an agreement signed Tuesday night, Anwar Mukhdari, a Sanaa-based trade union official told AFP without elaborating. Meanwhile, the four employees who were arrested for inciting the industrial action were released late Tuesday, Mukhdari said.

Rival Kurdish factions exchange PoWs

CAIRO (AP) — Iraq's two main rival Kurdish groups have released more than 200 prisoners of war, the British Broadcasting Corp. reported Wednesday. The prisoners were freed Tuesday, BBC's monitoring service said quoting the Kurdistan Democratic Party's (KDP) radio. It said the KDP freed about 160 fighters while the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) released 44. The release came amid efforts aimed at ending the conflict between the KDP and the PUK, which are wrestling for control of the autonomous Kurdish zone in northern Iraq since 1991.

Morocco airports give Jerusalem fund \$1.1 million

RABAT (R) — Morocco's state-run airport authority (ONDA) has contributed 10.7 million dirhams (\$1.1 million) to a fund in support of the Arab inhabitants of occupied east Jerusalem, the official Moroccan news agency MAP said Wednesday.

"This contribution to Beit Al Mal Al Quds [Jerusalem Fund] is part of Morocco's efforts to support the Palestinian people's struggle. It answers King Hassan's call to show solidarity with the city," MAP quoted Transport Minister Mustafa Mansouri as saying.

The fund was set up last year by the Jerusalem Committee created by the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to boost investments and help Palestinians build in the city.

Arabs accuse Israel of adopting a policy of "Judaisation" in occupied East Jerusalem since its occupation in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

The committee, which comprises representatives from 16 Muslim countries, has been chaired by King Hassan since 1979, four years after it was formed.

Iran bans book about women's freedoms

TEHRAN (AP) — Iran has banned a book about freedoms granted to women by Islam's Prophet Mohammad, the Tehran Times daily reported Wednesday.

The English-language newspaper said that the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance banned the book by Seyed Mohsen Saeedzadeh because it contained "materials disrespecting the holy prophet of Islam." The author had "attributed obscene affairs to the holy prophet," said the newspaper. It gave no details about the book or describe the specific passages that ran afoul of the authorities.

Offended for similar reasons, Iran issued a religious edict in 1989 ordering Mus-

lims to seek out and kill the author of "The Satanic Verses," Salman Rushdie, an Indian-born British writer.

"The Satanic Verses" had mocked Mohammad's nine wives.

According to Islamic texts, Mohammad performed multiple marriages to strengthen links with other tribes and draw them into the fold of Islam. He believed that women are equal to men in most respects.

Saeedzadeh, author of the book banned in Iran, could face calls for harsher punishment by Islamist hard-liners who may not be satisfied only with the banning of the book.

Saeedzadeh was not immediately available for comment.

Israeli unions to strike Thursday

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's Histadrut labour union federation said Wednesday it would call a general strike on Thursday to press for an eight per cent rise in real wages, bringing virtually all the public sector to a halt.

"Right now we are planning to start the strike tomorrow and we don't know when it will end," Histadrut spokeswoman Rachel Turgeman told Reuters.

She said decisions as to whether the strike would be open-ended and which unions would participate would be taken before the strike is officially announced later on Wednesday.

In addition to government

offices, the action would almost certainly include state-owned Bezeq Israel Telecom and Israel Electric Co. health funds, and government-controlled television and radio.

Turgeman said.

The Histadrut spokeswoman said airport workers would probably not strike but stage a slowdown. A spokesman for state-owned El Al Israel Airlines said its employees would continue working.

A ports authority spokesman said it was uncertain whether dockworkers would be joining the strike.

Meanwhile, Israel Radio reported that the country's teachers had reached a com-

promise agreement with the treasury that could end a strike they began two days ago, at the start of the school year.

The radio said the terms awaited Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's approval.

Turgeman said the Histadrut was demanding a real public sector pay increase of eight per cent backdated to 1997. Unions also wanted civil servants hired through employment agencies to be covered by collective labour agreements.

The treasury has offered government employees a 1.25 per cent pay rise for the year.

Turkey urges Greek Cypriots to reconsider confederation

ANKARA (AP) — Turkey urged the Greek Cypriots on Wednesday to reconsider its offer of a two-state confederation on the divided island as a way to restart deadlocked unification talks.

Greek Cypriot and Greek leaders rejected the idea as a ploy to legitimise the island's partition and gain recognition for the breakaway Turkish Cypriot state.

"Those who don't give the proposal the proper consideration it deserves, will be sorry for losing such an opportunity," said Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman Necati Utkan.

Cyprus has been divided into Greek and Turkish sectors since Turkey invaded in 1974 following a short-lived coup by supporters of union with Greece. United Nations efforts to reunite the island have stalled.

The breakaway state in the north is recognised only by Turkey, which maintains 35,000 troops there.

On Monday, Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş proposed a confederation of the two states, with international recognition for the Turkish side.

Camel control measures in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Kuwait is to adopt measures to control stray camels after a string of accidents caused by the massive humped beasts roaming on to highways.

Errant camels have been behind six recent car accidents in Kuwait that resulted in fatalities and serious injuries, an official from the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources said, quoted by the English-language Arab Times on Wednesday.

The authority "will adopt two measures to organise pasture lands for camels and sheep and allocate special

areas," and there will be stiff fines and even three-month jail sentences for those flouting the law, the official said.

The interior ministry has appealed to camel owners to instruct their herders not let their camels wander on to the emirate's fast-moving highways.

Camels often wander untended near and sometimes on desert roads in Kuwait searching for areas to graze and their heavy frames can wreck a car if they are knocked down at speed.

"Camels and sheep wander all over the roads in northern Kuwait," said one

Kuwaiti who works in the desert region.

"Sometimes the herders tie the camels' legs together to stop them wandering off, but this only means that the camels cross the roads more slowly and often in bigger numbers," he said.

"When sandstorms hit the area and visibility is cut to 5-10 metres, driving can be a dangerous business," he added. Camels have also proved an obstacle for others in Kuwait. In July, U.S. troops stationed in the oil-rich emirate killed 10 camels and injured 10 more when a herd of the animals strayed into their live-firing range.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 4773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

Thursday Programmes

15:10 Cartoon — Animated Hero Classics
15:30 Cartoon — The Animal Park
16:00 Doc. — L'Ecole des Fans
16:30 Doc. — Blue Water Dreaming
17:00 NBA
18:15 Sliders
19:00 Le Journal
19:15 Science Magazine — (L'oeuf De Colomb)
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Comedy — Family Matters
20:00 The Great Romances
20:30 Drama — Dr. Quinn the Medicine Woman
21:10 Oprah Winfrey
22:00 News in English
22:30 Comedy — "Trust Me"
23:59 Comedy — Can't Hurry Love?
00:30 End of T.X.

Friday Programmes

15:10 Cartoon — The Adventures of Teddy Ruxpin
15:30 The Borrowers
16:00 Feature film — "Deadline"
18:15 French quiz show — Les Cles de Fort Boyard
19:00 Le Journal
19:15 French Programme — Allo La Terre
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Comedy — The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air
20:00 Life on the Digital Edge
20:30 Understanding Beauty
21:10 Babylon-5
22:00 News in English
22:30 Big Sky (Ep. 4)
23:59 End of T.X.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

PRAYER TIMES

04:47 Fajr
06:07 (Sunrise) Dhuha
12:35 Dhuhur
16:10 'Asr
19:03 Maghreb
20:23 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swefieh, Tel. 5920740
Assemblies of God Church Tel.
4632785
St. Joseph Church Tel.
4624590
Terra Sancta Church Tel.
4622366
Anglican Church Tel.
4624853/4624811
St. Afrem Syrian Orthodox
Church Tel. 4771751
Amman International Church
Tel. 5865897
German-speaking Evangelical
Congregation Tel. 5688404
The Evangelical Local Church
in Amman Tel. 5811295
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter
Day Saints Tel. 4654932
St. John the Baptist at De la
Salle College Tel. 5661757
Church of the Annunciation
Tel. 4637440
Greek Orthodox Church Tel.
4646138
Church of Presentation, Swefieh
Tel. 5920146
The United Catholic Church
Tel. 4624757
The English-Language
Catholic Parish Tel. 4614190
Evangelical Free Church Tel.
4892679

The Baptist Church Tel.
4628052
The Armenian Catholic
Church Tel. 4771331
The Armenian Orthodox
Church Tel. 4775261

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department
of Meteorology
Normal summer weather
conditions will prevail during the
weekend with temperatures
around average and winds
northwesterly moderate to
active. In Aqaba, winds will be
northerly moderate, and seas
calm.

Amman 19/31
Aqaba 26/37
Deserts 18/35
Jordan Valley 25/37

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 34, Aqaba 40
Humidity readings: Amman
26 per cent, Aqaba 33 per
cent.

Following are the highest temperatures
expected today in the
following areas:

Ajloun 27
Jerash 33
Um Qays 32
Madaba 31
Petra 35
Dead Seas 39

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Ghaleb Zaidieh 4126011
Dr. Khaldoun Asfour 5332600
Dr. Bilal Sayid 4890280
Dr. Tawfiq Qab'ain 463029
Firas pharmacy 5661912
Ferdous pharmacy 4771013
Al Asena pharmacy 4637055
Nairokh pharmacy 4622672
Al Salam pharmacy 4637630
Yacoub pharmacy 4644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 4637660
Najib pharmacy 5347632
IRBID:
Dr. Ghazi Ta'arneh 250080
Al Quds pharmacy (—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Akram Haddad 985550
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 4637111
Civil Defence Department 5661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue
..... 4630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192 4621111, 4637777
Fire Brigade 4617101
Blood Bank 4775121
Highway Police 5343402
Traffic Police 4896390
Public Security Dept. 4630321
Price Complaints 5605800
Hotel Complaints 5661176
Water & Sewerage Complaints 4897467
Amman Municipality Complaints
..... 4787111
Telephone Information (directo-

ry assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone
Repairs 4623101
Abdali Tel. Repairs 5661101
Jordan Television 4773111
Jordan Radio 4774111
Water Authority 5680100
J. Electricity Authority 5815615
Electric Power Co. 4636381
RJ Flight Information 4453200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 4453200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special
Surgery 5921199
The Islamic, Abdali 5666131/7
Husseini Medical Centre Tel.
5856856
Luzmila 4630195
Khalidi Maternity 4642381/6
Akileh Maternity 4642341/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 4642362
Malhas, J. Amman 4636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 5607071
Shmeisani Hospital 5669131
University Hospital 5353444
Al-Muasher Hospital 5667227/9
Al-Ahli, Abdali 5664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 4771013
Al-Bashir 4775111/26
Army, Marka 4891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 5602240/50
Amal Hospital 5674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital
..... (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital
1845 (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital
..... (09)990990

IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital
..... (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital
..... (02)272275
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital
..... (02)247100

AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital
(03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by
Royal Jordanian (RJ) information
department at the Queen
Alia International Airport Tel.
(44)53200 where it should
always be verified.
Information on other flights are
supplied on phone 44 (52700) or
44 (53250).

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
08:10 Sudan (RJ)
10:05 Beirut (RJ)
10:05 Dhabran, Riyadh (RJ)
10:20 Bahrain (RJ)
10:30 Bombay (RJ)
10:35 New Delhi (RJ)
10:40 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
11:00 Colombo (RJ)
15:40 Kuwait (add) (RJ)
15:55 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:30 London (RJ)
18:45 Kuwait (RJ)
19:10 Athens (RJ)
19:20 Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)
20:40 Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)

23:55 Larnaca (RJ)
02:40 Doha (RJ)
02:45 Dhabran (add) (RJ)
03:30 Abu Dhabi (add) (RJ)
Other Flights
08:55 Dubai (EK)
11:00 Kuwait (KU)
13:00 Riyadh (SV)
14:10 Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF)
15:10 Sharjah (AH)
15:40 Doha (QR)
18:40 Beirut (ME)
19:00 Paris (AF)
20:25 Tel Aviv (LY)
21:00 Cairo (MS)
21:10 London (BA)
23:20 Istanbul (TK)
23:35 Larnaca (CY)
00:05 Moscow (SU)
01:15 Amsterdam, Beirut (KL)
01:35 Bahrain (add) (GF)
04:20 Tunis (TU)
05:20 Antalya (TK)

Royal Wings (RW)
(For Thursday and Friday)
10:20 Aqaba (arriving at QAIA
and proceeding to Marka Air-
port) (RW)
18:00 Aqaba (arriving at Marka
Airport on Thursday and Friday)
(RW)
20:20 Tel Aviv (arriving
at QAIA on Friday only).
22:35 Tel Aviv (arriving at
QAIA on Thursday only) (RW)
23:25 Aqaba (from Marka Air-
port) (RW)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
06:45 Beirut (RJ)
10:00 Kuwait (add) (RJ)
10:20 Dhabran, Riyadh (RJ)
10:30 Bahrain (RJ)
10:35 New Delhi (RJ)
10:40 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
11:00 Colombo (RJ)
15:40 Kuwait (add) (RJ)
15:55 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:30 London (RJ)
18:45 Kuwait (RJ)
19:10 Athens (RJ)
19:20 Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)
20:40 Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)

10:00 Kuwait (add) (RJ)
11:55 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:15 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:20 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
12:25 Al 'Ain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
12:45 Kuwait (RJ)
13:10 Paris (RJ)
13:20 Athens (RJ)
13:30 London (RJ)
20:30 Doha (QR)
20:35 Abu Dhabi (add) (RJ)
20:35 Larnaca (RJ)
21:15 Cairo (RJ)
04:30 Jeddah (RJ)
21:45 Dhabran (add) (RJ)
22:30 Dubai (RJ)
00:30 Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)

Other Flights
06:15 Istanbul (TK)
07:50 Frankfurt (LH)
08:20 London (BA)
09:55 Dubai (EK)
09:55 Damascus, Dubai (RJ)
12:00 Kuwait (KU)
14:30 Riyadh (SV)
15:00 Abu Dhabi (GF)
16:00 Amman, Algiers (AH)
16:30 Doha (QR)
20:00 Beirut (ME)
21:10 Tel Aviv (LY)
22:00 Cairo (MS)
02:15 Amsterdam (KL)
02:25 Bahrain (add) (GF)
05:20 Beirut, Tunis (TU)

Royal Wings
(For Thursday and Friday)
08:00 Aqaba (from Marka Air-
port) (RW)
09:30 Aqaba (from Marka Air-
port on Thursday and Friday)
(RW)
20:45 Tel Aviv (from QAIA—
on Thursday only) (RW)
21:30 Aqaba (from QAIA) (RW)

Home

Council
night visits
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allowed

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The
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Council recommends night visits to Petra be allowed

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Petra Regional Council has submitted a recommendation to the Tourism Ministry that visitors to Petra be allowed to visit the site on nights with a full moon to encourage tourists to spend more time in the country.

PRC Director Kamel Mahadin said the council also recommended that tourists who have visited Petra for three consecutive days be allowed to enter the ancient city on the fourth day free of charge.

Non-Jordanians visiting Petra pay JD20 to enter while Jordanians pay only JD1, according to rates set by the Tourism Ministry.

Mahadin said the PRC has asked hotels in the Petra region to offer both Jordanians and non-Jordanians discounts of at least 50 per cent to attract more visitors.

He said the council recommended that Jordan take part in international tourist exhibitions in London, Berlin and Milan to market Jordan's archaeological and tourist sites in general and Petra in particular.

Mahadin noted that tourist groups from Europe visiting the site last year comprised 75 per cent of the total number of groups that made the trip to Petra.

The ancient city also received large numbers of Arab nationals, he said, noting that the increase followed the completion of a number of regional infrastructure projects.

Last week, Tourism Minister Akel Biltaji said Jordan's tourism industry this summer witnessed a surge of Gulf Arab visitors lured by an advertising campaign and an increase in flights available for rent.

"The surge was so positive that by the end of July there was a 36 per cent increase over last year," Biltaji was quoted as saying by Reuters.

According to Biltaji, 444,000 Gulf Arab tourists visited Jordan in the first seven months of this year, up from 326,000 in the same period last year.



HRH Princess Basma at the launching of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) State of the World Population Report for 1998 (Petra photo)

Princess Basma attends launching of 1998 World Population Report

By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — HRH Princess Basma on Wednesday called on regional and international organisations to interact more with governments to focus their activities on demographic changes as part of efforts to advance social development.

"Jordan's service sector and social security have been put under a great strain as a consequence of an increase in population. This increase has resulted from waves of forced migration to the Kingdom, an increase in fertility and a decreased mortality rate," Princess Basma said at a conference held to launch the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) State of the World Population Report for 1998.

She added that the Kingdom has been working on solving issues related to population growth, such as unemployment, pockets of poverty and an increase in the number of elderly.

Princess Basma noted that countries with "limited resources, such as Jordan, face an enormous task in the light of this population explosion."

The Princess expressed hope that the country would continue to boast strong family ties in order to provide the elderly with support and care. "We look at the family based on our own values, culture and Islamic heritage. I hope that the family unit will continue to be strong [and] to receive the necessary care and support."

According to the report, which was released under the theme "New Generations," the world will witness a demographic shift in the coming years toward an "older population."

By 2050, 97 per cent of the growth of older populations will be in today's developing regions, compared to 77 per cent now. In contrast, in developed countries, the number of people aged over 65 is expected to reach 25 per cent by same year.

The report also projected that in some regions the number of people aged over 85 will more than double. The majority of these will be widows who are often poorer and less educated.

"Older women are more likely than men to be poor, victims of exploitation and illiteracy," said Atef Khalifa, director of the UNFPA Country Support Team for Arab States and Europe.

In the Arab World, he said, only four per cent of the population falls within the 65 and above age bracket. In Jordan, this figure is less than three per cent.

"We expect this proportion to increase to six per cent within the coming 15 years. But due to the extended family structures [in Jordan], the elderly are being taken care of," Khalifa told the Jordan Times. But he added that "social changes, though, are affecting values, and the elderly have to learn how to live alone and access services."

The conference also highlighted the need to provide additional health and social care for the elderly. The report called for investing in health services and support mechanisms for this age group.

Despite a decrease in population growth over the past 30 years, high fertility rates are causing the world's population to grow by over 80 million people annually, the report said.

"Jordan has one of the highest fertility rates in the world at 4.6 per cent. However, the Kingdom has the highest literacy rate in the Arab World in addition to a very high standard of health services," Khalifa said.

Ugur Tuncer, UNFPA representative to Jordan, remarked that "the utilisation of health facilities in rural areas of the country has not met our expectations... Jordan has an exemplary health infrastructure, but not many people make use of the mother and child centres."

The World Population report warned that the rapid growth of both young and old age groups was challenging the ability of societies to provide education and health care for the young, and social, medical and financial support for the elderly.

Producers suspend project following new audio/visual regulations

By Mohammad Ben Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Arab Radio and TV (ART) has decided to suspend the production of a \$500,000 documentary series because the company does not want to submit to Jordan's recently implemented audio/visual regulations.

The regulations, issued in 1997 and made effective in July, stipulate that all audio/visual products must have a licence from the Press and Publications Department (PPD). In order to obtain the licence, the product must pass through the PPD for censorship and the producer must pay a fee ranging from JD1 to JD100, depending on the product. The regulations apply to local as well as imported products.

"After the regulations took effect, the company was forced to halt the dubbing project for Al Marif Channel, because censoring it according to the new regulations would be very expensive," said Radhi Alkhas, director of the ART regional office in Amman.

"The programme is about animal life, it has nothing to do with politics or pornography. I wonder why they want to censor such kinds of products," Alkhas added.

"My company dubs about 80 per cent of the programmes carried by Al Marif, a channel specialised in documentaries, which amounts to about \$1 million in income for us. But the new regulations, requiring us to censor the product twice, first when it comes to the country and then when it is distributed to the rest of the world, would make us lose all chances of gaining anything from our work," Alkhas explained.

He said that around 50 people were working on this project, which will be cancelled if the regulations are not amended.

Other producers are also calling for the government to introduce amendments that would exempt them from the regulations "in the interest of the welfare of Jordan," said one producer.

Their concern is that the new regulations will severely damage Jordan's competitiveness in the audio/visual production market in the region.

Since the Gulf war, Jordan has become a base for companies from all over the world who seek professional Arabic dubbing of their products. The slump in jobs for actors in the Kingdom lured many of them toward work in dubbing.

"There are conflicting views about the regulations. Some think they are good and others think they will harm the industry," said

Information Minister Nasser Judeh at a press briefing Tuesday.

"The government will study the regulations and will decide if they need to be amended or not," Judeh told the Jordan Times.

The regulations, according to Bassem Hijawi, an executive producer for the International Distribution Agency, whose head office is in the UAE, will damage this industry in the Kingdom.

"Producers in the future will relocate from Jordan to Lebanon or Syria," said Hijawi.

Most producers are adamant that this regulation is superfluous.

"We have been working in this field for 20 years, and there has never been one incident where a producer breached a censorship law," said Adnan Awamleh, head of one of Jordan's largest production companies, Arab Telemedia.

Awamleh said most of the dubbing done in Jordan is for airing outside the country, and thus would amount to imposing Jordan's censorship laws on foreign parties.

"We are producing for television. In Jordan our only client is Jordan Television which has its own censorship department. So what is the reason for this double censorship?" Hijawi asked.

He added that the time factor is important. "I cannot meet the expectation of many clients if my tapes have to go through some ministerial procedure first. Some programmes need to be in and out on a daily basis," said Hijawi.

Awamleh and Hijawi say producers have stopped bringing in programmes for dubbing. As a result, actors are now feeling the squeeze.

"We are all sitting at home," said actor Jamal Maray. "There is little support for actors from the television and theatre, so we rely on dubbing work to make ends meet. If producers stop working, so do we."

The chairman of the Actors Guild earlier told the Jordan Times "as a union we are against these regulations. If the regulations continue it will mean that Jordan theatrical art will die. No Jordanian, Arab or other producer will want to make any production here. We are also insulted because for over 39 years we have worked and never broken any rules."

Nayef Mawla, a deputy and former PPD director, said he had seen the law while in office, and "I read it very carefully and shelved it. I do not think it is fair to censor those tapes, which are mostly not for Jordanian use anyway."

'Science Week' focuses on solutions for unemployment, educational reform

'Private sector can play vital role in easing unemployment'

Tawjihi 'not reliable' in indicating students' abilities

By Mohammad Ben Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The private sector can play a vital role in combating the chronic problem of unemployment in the Kingdom, a labour official at the Sixth National Science Week told participants.

"The private sector should create incentives for its employees in order to encourage them to remain with their jobs," said Adel Lutfi from the Labour Ministry.

Employers should provide their labourers with "medical insurance, annual pay increases and saving funds," Lutfi said.

He stressed the importance of coordination between the private and public sectors in combating unemployment, officially put at 15 per cent but estimated by independent institutions to be as high as 27 per cent.

Further, Lutfi proposed that the private sector should also seek to find employment opportunities for their staff abroad, which will create job

opportunities for the unemployed.

Lutfi was commenting on a study prepared by the Royal Scientific Society that recommended that Jordan adopt the unified classification of skilled labourers in the Arab World.

Experts also suggested developing an entire system for testing the qualifications of labourers as well as issuing them licences for the practice of their vocations.

"The system would study market demands and determine the number and kind of licence," said Lutfi.

Around 200 participants representing 90 institutions from the public and private sector as well as NGOs are taking part in the four-day event.

The recommendations of the conference will be implemented in the upcoming "national employment conference," which is scheduled to take place later this month, according to the head of the National Council for Human Resources, Munther Masri.

AMMAN — The high school graduation exam, the tawjihi, is not a reliable measure of students' abilities, educationists said yesterday during the second day of the Sixth National Science Week.

The exam, a nightmare for students and parents alike, is taken by students at the end of 12 years of schooling. This year, out of the 97,000 students who sat for the exam, 47,000 passed and out of these, 25,000 will make it to universities.

The effectiveness of the tawjihi came under heavy scrutiny during yesterday's discussions.

Many participants said the tawjihi is not an accurate and reliable measure of a student's real ability, nor a credible determining factor of entry into institutions of higher learning.

One participant criticised the philosophy behind the educational system represented in the tawjihi, saying that it screens out talented students possessing great potential but low marks.

"There are many students who have low averages but who also possess amazing talents and gifts," said Rofi

Sharif, an engineering professor at the University of Jordan.

"Taking this into consideration is very important, especially if we wish to turn out a creative generation that is not brought up on rote learning."

Participants also discussed ways of improving the compatibility between higher education and the demands of the labour market.

Breaking away from traditional seminars and workshops in which long papers and speeches take up most of discussion time, yesterday's "Educational System" sessions, one of three main areas highlighted in the four-day Strategy for Developing Human Resources Conference, included round-table discussions and lively interaction between over 30 educationalists.

Around 200 participants, representing 90 institutions from the public and private sectors as well as NGOs and representatives of regional and international organisations, are taking part in the conference.

The event was organised by the Higher Council of Science and Technology, the Royal Scientific Society, the National Centre for Human Resource Development and the Armed Forces.

what's going on

DARAT AL FUNUN SUMMER 98 FESTIVAL

"Summer 98" cultural activities at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh, to last until Sept. 30, include:

- * Film entitled "Arshile Gorky (1904-1948)" on Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- * 50 years of graphic art from Lebanon and works by Jordanian artist Sahel Hiari at the Main House.

- * Works by Iraqi artist Samer Usama and by Jordanian artist Said Haddadin at the Blue House.

- * Installation works by Jordanian artist Samia Zaru at the Byzantine Church.

- * Exhibition of photographs "Memory of a Place" by Jordanian artist Hussein Da'seh at the Museum.

CONCERTS

- * Concert by the National Band of Circassian Folklore at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m. (daily until Sept. 4).

- * Concert by the Malaysian Kuala Lumpur Folkloric Dance Band at the Royal Cultural Centre on Saturday Sept. 5 at 7:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- * Paintings by Rula Shukairy at the French Cultural Centre, Jabal Amman, until Sept. 30.

- * Exhibition of wrought iron furniture by Jordanian artist Salim Al Bandak at Al Baidar Hall, Kan Zaman village (Tel. 5862531), until Sept. 17.

'Small water main burst repaired'

SUKHNEH (J.T.) — Water Authority technicians at the Sukhneh water treatment sub-station, near western Zarqa, swiftly repaired a safety valve on a main sewage pipe after it burst early Wednesday morning because of a capacity overload.

The Sukhneh sub-station treats 40,000 cubic metres of wastewater coming from Amman and Zarqa every day before it pumps the water to Al Samra Water Treatment Plant, the technicians said.

According to the station technicians, the valve burst at around 1:30 a.m. Wednesday and was repaired in "less than an hour."

"After the valve burst, we closed all pipes coming in and going out of the station, and with the help of the Civil Defence Department, the problem was solved by 2:30 a.m.," said one technician.

Annual UNDP development report to be launched next week

AMMAN (J.T.) — The quality of life in over 170 countries will come under scrutiny again this year when the United Nations Development Programme launches the 1998 Human Development Report on Sept. 9 in The Hague, New York and nearly 100 other cities around the world, including Amman, a UNDP statement said.

Published annually by the UNDP and an international team of experts, the Human Development Report ranks developing and industrialised countries according to the Human Development Index (HDI), which is based on three socio-economic indicators — life expectancy, adult literacy and per capita income. The HDI value ranges from a minimum of 0 to a maximum of 1, reflecting how close a country is to achieving the highest possible human development.

Last year, Jordan ranked 84 out of 174 countries with an HDI value of 0.730. Canada ranked first with an HDI value of 0.960, followed by France, Norway and the United States. Among the Arab states, Bahrain ranked highest at 43, with an HDI value of 0.870, the statement continued.

Since it was first published in 1990, the Human Development Report has underscored the importance of equitable and people-centred development, while criticising economic growth which dismisses poor segments of the population. According to the UNDP, 1.3 billion people — more than one-fifth of the world's total population — live on less than \$1 a day. The 1998 report's focus on the

global consumption explosion is expected to draw attention to the continuing exclusion of the poor in the rapid expansion of world trade and investment, the statement added.

Concurrently, the UNDP's country programmes around the world have placed overriding priority in assisting the most vulnerable and low-income groups of society. In Jordan, where an estimated one-third of the population live in poverty, the UNDP said it is supporting the government's large-scale Social Productivity Programme to fight poverty and unemployment. It is also involved in a series of initiatives which provide vocational training and channel grants and microcredit toward income-generating projects to raise the standard of living in poor communities.

New agricultural processing plant opens near Madaba

MADABA (Petra) — Agriculture Ministry Secretary General Hassem Shboul on Wednesday opened a plant near Madaba for processing agricultural by-products into animal fodder.

In remarks at the inauguration ceremony, Shboul said the finished products, which can be produced at a very low cost, are supplementary food for animals.

He said the agricultural sector in Jordan suffers because of additional burdens farmers face due to the high cost of animal feed. Jordan imported more than 1 million tonnes of animal

feed last year at the cost of JD209 million, he added, and the bill is expected to rise in the coming years.

Shboul expressed hope that the plant's products will help reduce the cost of feeding livestock in Jordan.

According to Shboul, the agricultural sector contributes nearly seven per cent to the gross national product, and the country's livestock wealth comprises about 60 per cent of the total agricultural output.

Awni Tueimeh, head of the National Centre for Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer, said the

increase in livestock recently led to a shortage in animal feed products.

Tueimeh said Jordan imports 500 per cent more animal fodder per year than it used to import annually between 1980 and 1994.

Referring to the new project, Tueimeh said processing agricultural by-products is a non-traditional process and is cost effective because it uses local resources.

Also present at the meeting of the inauguration ceremony were Madaba Governor Nashed Majali and officials from the local agricultural department.

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Yeltsin, Clinton pledge to back continued Russian reform

MOSCOW (AFP) — Presidents Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton wrapped up their two-day summit Wednesday agreeing that Russia must stick to the path of reform to reverse its financial crisis and secure full international backing for its troubled economy.

Speaking at a press conference after a two-day Kremlin pow-wow, the two leaders both stressed that Russia's reform process had to be pushed through to a conclusion, despite pressure to relent amid the fierce financial storm lashing the country's currency and financial markets.

But both leaders agreed that Russia will have to take the next steps alone.

Yeltsin admitted that much of the problems in the country were of its own making, while Clinton said that further assistance from Washington and other financial world heavyweights would only be forthcoming upon the completion of reform.

And despite the conclusion of two minor arms control agreements at the summit, the presidents admitted they did not see eye-to-eye on several foreign policy aspects, Yeltsin indirectly criticising his counterpart for resorting to military force to settle international issues.

With calls for parliament for his resignation and an economy buckling under the weight of a mass exodus of investment, Yeltsin has come under pressure to roll back the reform process he

launched seven years ago, and he has admitted that greater state control could be needed to reverse Russia's spectacular recent decline.

But Wednesday he reassured his visitor that he would not turn the clock back: "We must conclude reforms and reap the results of it."

The Kremlin chief admitted: "Of course our problems are mostly our own. We have failed to solve a lot since we started reforms." But he added that Russia must have political backing from Washington in its hour of need. "We need the United States for political support, we ought to know that the United States supports reform in Russia," Yeltsin said.

Clinton for his part said the reform drive was now dependent on the political situation in Russia, where the parliament has blocked Yeltsin's candidate for prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin.

The effort to "restore real growth to the Russian economy depends on President Yeltsin's ability to persuade the Duma to support his formation of a government which will pursue the path of reform," Clinton said.

He said that "if the reform process can be completed, I would be strongly supportive of greater assistance to Russia from America and other big economic powers."

Before fielding questions, the two leaders inked pacts on exchanging information

on anti-missile alert systems and the reduction by 50 tonnes apiece of their stocks of military plutonium.

But they agreed to disagree on some aspects of foreign policy, in which Russia has struck an independent and at times indignant pose in recent months at what it perceives as U.S. attempts to play the role of global gendarme.

"Russia rejects in principle the use of force," Yeltsin said. "There can be no military solutions to today's conflicts. Whether it's Kosovo, the situation over Iraq, Afghanistan or others."

Yeltsin said he was "outraged" by the U.S. decision last month to bomb suspected terrorist sites in Afghanistan and Sudan, and Russia has distanced itself from calls for military intervention in Kosovo from NATO.

But the Russian president stressed at the press conference that the two-day summit had proceeded in a positive atmosphere.

"We remain friends," Yeltsin said. "From the first to the last the atmosphere was friendly and there were no differences of opinion on the bilateral level."

"I would like to say, and I hope Bill will agree with me, the visit went well," the Kremlin chief said.

"Our meeting, and it was the fifteenth one, once again proves that when the presidents of Russia and the U.S. join forces, they can handle any problem," Yeltsin added.



U.S. President Bill Clinton (left) and Russian President Boris Yeltsin applaud as State Secretary Madeleine Albright (background L) and Russian acting Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov exchange documents after a signing ceremony in the Kremlin. The two leaders signed agreements Wednesday on early warning data exchanges about worldwide missile launches and on a reduction of plutonium stocks (Reuters photo)

Russian lawmakers call for compromise candidate for prime minister

MOSCOW (AP) — Communists urged President Boris Yeltsin Wednesday to come up with a new, compromise choice for prime minister, and other lawmakers called on the current candidate to step aside.

Yeltsin, however, has given no sign that he will heed the request, and another showdown is expected Friday when parliament plans to vote for a second time on the position.

The state Duma, the lower house of parliament, overwhelmingly rejected acting Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin Monday, saying he was incapable of leading the country out of its worst economic crisis since the Soviet era.

"Funerals, killings and catastrophes have become the main content of Russian life," lawmakers said in a draft statement explaining why they rejected Chernomyrdin. "By turning Chernomyrdin down, we voted no confidence in the president and urged him to resign."

The Duma also gave tentative approval to a letter appealing to Chernomyrdin to voluntarily step aside.

"Your voluntary refusal to take the post of prime minister may seriously help to ease tension and help the search for a compromise," the letter said. But Chernomyrdin gave no indication that he would step aside.

Russian news agencies said he nominated some ministers for his proposed new government in a letter to Yeltsin Tuesday. The names were not immediately available.

Yeltsin insists he won't give up Chernomyrdin as his nom-

inee despite the risk of continued political and economic uncertainty if his strategy fails.

Under the Russian constitution, the president can present his candidate for prime minister three times. If lawmakers reject Yeltsin's choice all three times, the president must dissolve the Duma and call new parliamentary elections within three months.

Yeltsin would then rule by decree, and with an interim government, until the new parliament is seated.

Communists and their hard-line allies say that Chernomyrdin's prospects for winning approval are dim, and they have criticised Yeltsin's handling of the crisis.

But ultranationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy indicated Wednesday that his party, which abstained in Monday's vote, would support Chernomyrdin as the candidate best able to pull the economy out of its tailspin.

"It would be easier for him to continue the surgery since he has just come out of the operation room," Zhirinovskiy told reporters, referring to Chernomyrdin's five-year stint as prime minister before his surprise firing in March.

Zhirinovskiy's Liberal Democratic Party is the third largest in parliament's lower house with 50 members.

Former national security adviser Alexander Lebed said dissolving parliament would be political suicide for Yeltsin.

"Hatred for the present power has taken root in the Russian provinces," said Lebed, who now is governor of the Krasnoyarsk region of Siberia.

"Therefore if the president decided to dissolve the Duma, he will commit political harakari," he told the Interfax news agency.

Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov called on both houses of parliament to come up with a new candidate for Yeltsin to propose. Zyuganov offered no names, but has previously suggested Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov, former Soviet bureaucrat Yuri Maslyukov and several regional governors.

Before he and other top politicians met privately with Clinton, Zyuganov issued another apocalyptic warning about the consequences of not moving swiftly to form a new government.

"The Kremlin is half-dead, the government is paralysed, and we are on the verge of a paralysis of legislative power as well," he told reporters. "A lack of government would inevitably lead to bandits and criminals taking over power in the country."

Yeltsin nominated Chernomyrdin last week, just five months after replacing him with the young Sergei Kiriyenko. Yeltsin dismissed Kiriyenko on Aug. 23.

The Russian media has speculated that maverick Boris Berezovsky, a powerful banker who is well-connected in the Kremlin, helped persuade Yeltsin to dump Kiriyenko when he started to get tough on banks.

Berezovsky told Echo Moscow radio Wednesday that Yeltsin might resign to clear the way for new leadership, but the president has adamantly denied that he will quit before his term expires in the year 2000.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bosnian war crimes suspect arrested in Germany

BONN (R) — German federal prosecutors said Wednesday they had arrested a Bosnian man suspected of committing war crimes during the 1992-95 Bosnian war. The 43-year-old man, identified only as Djurdj K., was arrested in Munich Tuesday on the orders of a magistrate and charged with complicity in genocide. He was also charged with murder, attempted murder and unlawful confinement carried out during the war in the former Yugoslav republic, prosecutors said in a statement. The examining magistrate ordered the suspect to be held in custody. Djurdj K. is suspected of supporting the Serbian policy of ethnic cleansing against Muslims on the two specific occasions of June 25, 1992, and Aug. 14, 1992 in his capacity as a police captain in the Kotor Varos area, prosecutors said. He is believed to have ordered the imprisonment of groups of Muslims as well as ordering and taking part in the shooting of some of them. Prosecutors said the man had a fixed place of residence in Germany. Regional authorities are still carrying out an investigation into his suspected involvement. German courts have taken on several cases from the Bosnian war to ease the burden on the international tribunal in The Hague.

Brunei to return seized religious artefacts

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN (AFP) — Brunei's Muslim religious affairs ministry said Wednesday it would return artefacts of Christian and Buddhist origin that had been seized from local goldsmiths, on condition they were not displayed. The Religious Affairs Ministry has confiscated items including crosses and Buddha figures from the shops of goldsmiths who violated a written warning not to prominently display the artefacts in their showcases, an official from the ministry said. "They can have them back by writing to the Ministry of Home Affairs and they will not at the moment be prosecuted," the official said. Brunei is an absolute Islamic monarchy. Eighty-five per cent of Brunei's 300,000 people are Muslim Malays, while the rest are mostly of Chinese and Indian descent. The ministry said it was also keeping a close watch on exhibitions where artefacts of other religious nature may be sold, adding that they were also cracking down on the sale of unauthorised versions of the Holy Koran.

Italian government denies violating accords in probe of cardinal

ROME (AP) — The Italian government Wednesday responded to Vatican complaints about a loan-sharking investigation involving a cardinal, reportedly denying any violation of church-state accords. In a meeting with Italy's ambassador to the Holy See last week, the Vatican's foreign minister criticised investigators for their handling of the probe involving Naples Cardinal Michele Giordano. The Vatican was said to feel that investigators had violated long-standing church-state accords by tapping the cardinal's telephone, searching his office, failing to inform his superiors of the investigation and by making a spectacle of the probe. Italy's ambassador to the Vatican, Alberto Leoncini Bartoli, delivered the government's response Wednesday following a meeting between Premier Romano Prodi and his justice and foreign ministers late Tuesday. No details of the response were released, but Italian news reports said it contained a denial by the government that it had violated church-state accords. The Vatican said in a statement that it was evaluating the response. Prosecutors are investigating whether Giordano gave his brother, who was arrested Aug. 20 in a massive loan-sharking scheme, money for the illegal loans. Giordano, known for his denunciations of usury, has denied wrongdoing. He says he gave blank checks on his personal account to his brother, who was having financial problems.

Red Cross 'will double aid to China'

GENEVA (AFP) — The Red Cross announced Wednesday that it was doubling aid for the victims of China's floods, and appealed for help in raising the money. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies said it would be sending medical and food aid to some two million Chinese, double the number originally planned. For that, it called for \$5 million to supply water purification tablets, medicines, food and blankets. More than 60 days of catastrophic flooding across China have left at least 14 million homeless in the northeast and along the Yangtze River basin. The authorities estimate that five million homes have been destroyed and millions more damaged. Typhoid has now broken out in some areas, as well as dysentery, cholera, scabies and conjunctivitis. An earlier Red Cross appeal in July raised six million Swiss francs (\$4 million).

Mir cosmonauts start preparations for trip into damaged module

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian cosmonauts on the Mir space station started preparations Wednesday for a walk into the airless Spektr module, damaged in a collision a year ago. Space officials said. Flight commander Sergei Avdeyev and engineer Gennady Padalka are planning to venture into the Spektr on Sept. 15 to repair the engines that keep its solar batteries oriented towards the sun. Mission Control Centre said. The Spektr's solar batteries were damaged in a cargo ship collision in June 1997, which punctured the module and left it without air. The Mir's cosmonauts have since fixed two of the module's four solar panels. But cable connections between the panels and the system that points them to the sun have recently come loose and need to be re-adjusted, according to mission control spokesman Valery Lyudin. Another solar battery on the Spektr is damaged beyond repair, and the fourth is functional but not wired to the rest of the station. The Mir has six other operational solar panels that supply sufficient power. Wednesday, Avdeyev and Padalka were expected to install equipment in the airlock leading to the Spektr. They would also be examining the oxygen and heating units of their spacesuits, mission control said.

Policeman saves toddler from fatal fall

LONDON (R) — A policeman saved the life of a baby boy by breaking the toddler's fall from the third floor of a block of flats, British newspapers reported Wednesday. Dennis Hemmattoun ran to catch 21-month-old Keiran Holland as he fell 11 metres from a window in Southampton, southern England. "The weight and speed made him fall through my arms and I heard his head hit the pavement," the Times quoted Hemmattoun as saying. "Then he started screaming and his eyes opened. I was so relieved he was still alive. Keiran was taken to hospital where his condition was described as stable."

Clinton, Yeltsin sign missile alert and plutonium reduction accords

MOSCOW (AFP) — Presidents Bill Clinton and Boris Yeltsin signed agreements Wednesday on arms control during a two-day summit in Moscow.

The pacts focused on exchanging information on anti-missile alert systems and on the reduction by 50 tonnes apiece of their stocks of military plutonium.

Under the first of the two pacts, each country will inform the other's early warning stations of the launch of long-range ballistic missiles, both tactical and strategic, around the world.

The two countries will endeavour to set up a multi-lateral advance warning system for missile launches using information gathered from both countries' radars

and satellites. An early warning centre staffed by both Russian and U.S. personnel is envisaged.

The second pact detailed methods of disposing of excess stocks of plutonium, which is used as fuel in nuclear weapons.

One of the aims of this pact is to ensure that plutonium from dismantled Russian missiles does not fall into terrorist hands or reach countries intending to produce nuclear weapons.

Factories will be constructed in both countries to neutralise the plutonium for use in civil power plants or mixed with other radioactive waste for storage.

Reduction of military plutonium by 50 tonnes each effectively cuts each country's capacity to produce thousands of nuclear

weapons.

Fifty tonnes represents over a quarter of Russia's estimated 160-tonne stock and half of the U.S. military stock of this highly dangerous material. The pacts will be integrated into a bilateral agreement by the end of the year, once problems such as cost have been surmounted. U.S. experts believe the reduction programme, which will be subject to international monitoring, will cost several hundred million dollars.

Congress has already approved funds for construction of the United States' first plutonium conversion factory and facilities for plutonium storage, said Senator Pete Domenici, who is accompanying the Clinton visit to Moscow.

Viscount Rothermere, last of Britain's press barons, dies at 73

LONDON (AFP) — Vere Harmsworth, Viscount Rothermere, the last old-style press baron in Britain, has died aged 73, his company said in a statement Wednesday.

Lord Rothermere, the chairman of a newspaper dynasty that included two leading national newspapers, died overnight in St. Thomas's Hospital, London, after a heart attack.

He was taken to hospital late Tuesday after flying in from France where he lived. He had previously been in good health, according to the company.

His son Jonathan Harmsworth, the present managing director of London's Evening Standard newspaper, was at his bedside when he

died. British Prime Minister Tony Blair said he was shocked and saddened to learn of Rothermere's death, describing him as "an extraordinary man".

The press baron was the scion of a newspaper dynasty founded by the inventor of popular journalism in Britain, his great uncle, the first Lord Northcliffe.

Rothermere, proprietor of the Daily Mail, Mail Sunday and the London Evening Standard, filled a dominant position in the journalistic world for more than 30 years.

He was a survivor who prospered while other great publishing families disappeared in Britain's fiercely competitive newspaper market.

It was Rothermere who made Fleet Street history

by deciding to relaunch the Daily Mail as a tabloid after the old broadsheet had been on the verge of extinction.

Eleven years later, in 1982, he launched the weekly Mail Sunday.

Today, as well as three market-leading newspapers, the empire Rothermere leaves behind has the second-largest portfolio of regional papers in Britain and investments ranging from financial publications to exhibitions.

In 1957, Eton-educated Rothermere married Patricia Evelyn Beverley Brooks, with whom he had one son and two daughters.

After she died in 1992, he married Korean-born Maiko Joeong-Shun Lee in 1993.

136 Chinese dissidents demand release of activist

BEIJING (AFP) — A total of 136 dissidents across China have signed an open letter demanding that the government unconditionally free labour activist Zhang Shuangang, a New York-based watchdog reported Wednesday.

The dissidents strongly protested at the continuing detention of the Hunan-based activist even though authorities released eastern dissident Wang Youcai ahead of U.N. human rights commissioner Mary Robinson's visit to China next week.

A copy of the letter was faxed to AFP by Human Rights in China.

Police in the southern city of Huaihua detained Zhang, 45, on July 21 for trying to set up an organisation to defend the rights of laid-off workers, an act they said "threatened state security."

He was formally placed under arrest last Friday. Leading dissidents from 20 provinces and cities

signed the letter, including Lin Xinsu and Ren Wanding. Zhejiang province's Wang Donghai and Zhu Zhengming and Sichuan-based activist Chen Wei.

Human Rights hailed the protest letter, saying Zhang was already suffering from tuberculosis from a previous spell behind bars. It urged international labour organisations to plead his case.

In a surprise move, police in the eastern city of Hangzhou Sunday released Wang Youcai — the leader of a bold attempt to set up a pro-democracy opposition party — into house arrest.

Authorities had earlier placed him under formal arrest, a sign that he was to be tried for subversion. The dissident said he himself is unsure if charges against him still stand, saying only that police warned him he could be detained again if he again got involved in political

activities. He was among more than 50 political activists who wrote to Robinson Tuesday urging her to meet dissidents during her Sept. 6-15 trip.

In a separate development, 17 dissidents from eastern Shandong province sent an open letter to President Jiang Zemin and Premier Zhu Rongji urging them to release veteran Qingdao-based dissident Chen Zengxiang.

The bookseller, whose activism dates back to the 1979 Democracy Wall movement, was arrested on May 23 after he returned from a visit to Hong Kong where he met exiled dissident Wang Bingzhang.

Wang slipped into China at the start of the year in a bid to set up the Chinese Democratic Justice Party on the mainland, prompting a harsh backlash by authorities against all his contacts.

N BRIEF

crimes suspect in Germany
Prosecutors said Wednesday a 35-year-old man suspected of committing 95 Bosnian war crimes was arrested in Germany. The man, who was arrested in a village near the border with Poland, was charged with the unlawful confinement and sexual abuse of women. He was also charged with the unlawful confinement and sexual abuse of women. He was also charged with the unlawful confinement and sexual abuse of women.

to return looted artefacts
The Hague

AN (AFP) — Bruner's Muslim aid Wednesday it would return Buddhist figures that had been looted by the Indonesian military. The Indonesian Ministry of Culture and Heritage said it would return the figures to the Buddhist community. The Indonesian Ministry of Culture and Heritage said it would return the figures to the Buddhist community.

ent denies violating robe of cardinal
Italian government

Italian government Wednesday denied reports that it was violating the robe of a cardinal. The Italian government said it was not violating the robe of a cardinal. The Italian government said it was not violating the robe of a cardinal.

double aid to China
Red Cross

Red Cross said it was providing double aid to China. The Red Cross said it was providing double aid to China. The Red Cross said it was providing double aid to China.

ts start preparations damaged module
Space shuttle

Space shuttle crew members started preparations for a damaged module. The space shuttle crew members started preparations for a damaged module. The space shuttle crew members started preparations for a damaged module.

n saves toddler n fatal fall
Police

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A protester shouts at Indonesian soldiers during riots in the city of Lhokseumawe in Indonesia. Indonesia's military said it was postponing further withdrawals of combat troops from the troubled northern province of Aceh after two days of rioting in which at least two people were killed by security forces (Reuters photo)

Indonesian military returns to riot-hit troubled Aceh province

JAKARTA (AFP) — Indonesian armed forces will return to the troubled province of Aceh to restore security after two days of mob riots following a troop withdrawal. The Indonesian Ministry of Defence said it was postponing further withdrawals of combat troops from the troubled northern province of Aceh after two days of rioting in which at least two people were killed by security forces.

The military have said that Monday's pullout was the second and last after an earlier one on Aug. 20 which saw the departure of 250 soldiers. The troops left Lhokseumawe in line with Jakarta's promise to scale down its military presence in the province where soldiers have been accused of massive human rights abuses during a decade-long anti-rebel operation.

"To safeguard projects of vital importance, the number of troops (in Aceh) will be reinforced," Wiranto said without elaborating. Lhokseumawe lies near the huge Arun oil and gas field.

"Security personnel are everywhere but we have not received any report of fresh unrest today," said Lt. an employee of the Iskandar Muda Legal Aid Institute in Lhokseumawe, the main town of North Aceh district.

"Everything appears calm but you can feel the tension," the road leading to the centre of Lhokseumawe was heavily guarded, a resident housewife who identified herself as Meutia, 27, said.

"The situation is calm and under control today," said an officer at the Lilawangsa military command in Lhokseumawe which oversees security in several Aceh districts, including North Aceh. He declined to be identified or elaborate.

The head of the Lilawangsa command, Colonel Dasiir Musnar was quoted by the Kompas daily as saying four companies of soldiers from the provincial capital and the neighbouring province of North Sumatra had been dispatched to Lhokseumawe.

An Indonesian company consists of about 100 men.

"They will remain here until the situation returns to normal like before," Musnar said.

Lieutenant Colonel Saleh of the information centre at the national police headquarters in Jakarta said about 1,000 men were responsible for security in Lhokseumawe.

Most people were staying home Wednesday and schools would remain closed for the rest of the week after looting and damage to property continued until late Tuesday, Meutia said.

"I don't dare go out of the house with all the looting and vandalism that is going on... some people are just taking advantage of the situation as it has gone out of control," she said.

Local residents also noted an increase in air traffic, including a jet belonging to the Mobile Oil company which has a huge oil and gas operation in the nearby Arun field.

"The Mobile Oil plane has flown at least twice this morning when it usually flies no more than twice a day," Meutia said.

Tuesday, the unrest also spread to four other sub-districts in North Aceh, police have said.

In two of the four districts — Samudra and Peusangan — police spoke of mobs of thousands, mostly school children and youths, ransacking shops there.

One of the dead came from Geudon, the main town of the Samudra sub-district, a human rights activist from the Iskandar Muda Legal Aid Institute has said.

North Korea blasts Japan as missile fears mount

TOKYO (AFP) — North Korea blasted Japan Wednesday for "making a fuss" over its ballistic missile test over the country, amidst fears that more tests were planned.

While stopping short of confirming Monday's firing, the Stalinist state said Tokyo was "making a fuss these days about a long-distance missile launching test that Japan says was carried out by the DPRK (North Korea)."

"We bitterly denounce Japan for making a fuss over the matter that belongs to our sovereignty while being unaware of its background," Pyongyang's official Korea Central News Agency (KCNA) said.

South Korean reports said meanwhile the North will test-fire the new medium-range missile again before exporting it to Middle East countries for an estimated \$6 million each.

It will relaunch the Taepo-Dong to gain political leverage with the United States, Japan and South Korea, a senior government official was quoted as saying by South Korea's YTN television.

The missiles will be deployed in 2000 before the North begins to export them to the Middle East, including Libya and Iran, for some \$6 million each, the official reportedly said.

Japan, stunned by the missile, vowed to step up defence technology.

"The government today decided not to give approval to the arrival of planes flying in from North Korea," Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiromu Nonaka told a news conference.

Tokyo cancelled approvals already given to nine cargo planes scheduled to arrive in Japan from North Korea this year, he said.

It also decided to reject applications for a further 14 cargo and passenger flights, said Nonaka. The ban would remain in place until further notice.

One of those flights had planned to pick up passengers in Japan for North Korea's 50th anniversary celebrations on Sept. 9, when Kim Jong-Il is expected to be inaugurated as president.

Humiliated by its failure to detect the missile, Japan vowed to bolster defence technology, possibly by launching its first spy satellite.

"We have been given a new sense of urgency," Nonaka said. "We felt powerless as we strove for our security based only on occasional information provided to us."

The incident made us realise the fear of not being able to obtain security information from our own satellite.

The headquarters of U.S. forces in Japan tipped off Japan's defence authorities about the launch. Washington monitored the firing on a spy satellite, according to reports here.

The weapon, which can reach any part of Japan, flew over the north of the country before landing in the Pacific.

Nonaka said Japan would consider launching its own surveillance satellite and bolstering cooperation with the U.S.-led development of theatre and ballistic missile defence.

South Korea declared itself "shocked and outraged" after the launch of the weapon, but pledged to keep its policy of reconciliation with Communist North Korea alive.

South Korea's military has however staged a joint exercise with fishermen off the east coast, which North Korean submarines have been caught.

Japanese Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura told parliament he would ensure North Korea gained no benefit from its missile launch.

"I will respond in a way that the firing will never benefit North Korea, in a way that the country will realise that when it has done something unforgivable internationally it will end up paying a price for such an act."

Japan has already ordered a halt to food and other aid to North Korea and suspended normalisation talks.

It is seeking a meeting with the United States and South Korea, said a government statement. And it is stepping back from talks on a 1994 deal in which Pyongyang froze its nuclear programme for safer energy supplies.

Police raid global Internet child porn club

LONDON (R) — About 100 people in 12 countries were arrested Wednesday in what police said was the biggest ever worldwide swoop on paedophiles operating on the Internet.

British police coordinated the raids, codenamed "Operation Cathedral", in Europe, Australia and the United States. They recovered more than 100,000 indecent images of children as young as two from one U.S.-based paedophile club known as "Wonderland".

"The content would absolutely turn the stomach of any right-minded person. It is disgusting stuff," said Detective Superintendent John Stewardson, who led the operation from Britain.

"People who engage themselves in this kind of depraved activity have felt relatively secure up until now in the knowledge that the Internet is virtually unpoliced... This coordinated action around the world has demonstrated that is no longer the case," Stewardson added.

Police said 11 people were arrested in Britain in dawn swoops across the country. In cooperation with other police forces and Interpol, 32 addresses were raided in the United States, 18 in Germany, 16 in Italy, eight in Norway, and one or two in Finland, Belgium, Austria, France, Sweden and Portugal.

Police officials from the participating states had met over the summer at Interpol headquarters in France to prepare the action.

British police said the majority of those arrested were men but some were women. Some of the children whose images were used in the paedophile club were related to those arrested.

Charges have not yet been filed and will differ from country to country according to their different judicial systems. But charges could range from possession of pornographic material to the more serious offence of sexual abuse of children.

Stewardson said police had worked with computer experts to recover a number of databases and had then tracked down the suspected members of the "Wonderland" club around the world.

He said it was the biggest ever police assault on paedophile activity on the Internet.

"As far as we are aware this has been done before, but we don't believe on this scale. Any sort of seizures from this type of offence previously were in the region of 10,000 images. The databases we have currently in connection with this contain over 100,000 images so it is considerably bigger than anything else," said Stewardson.

Stewardson said British police were particularly concerned with trying to help the children who had been sexually abused and whose pictures had been circulated by the club.

They said they hoped to trace the young victims — girls and boys some of whom appeared to be only about two years old — and offer them support and counselling.

"With the number involved it will be a very difficult task but it is one that we will need to do. There is a horrendous legacy from this criminality and that is the numbers of abused children around the world," Stewardson said.

The paedophile ring was originally targeted by police in Sussex, southern England, following a tip from the U.S. customs service.

Interpol headquarters in France said British authorities had sought their assistance "when it became clear the arrests of the ring members, in almost constant contact over the Internet, would have to be very precisely co-ordinated".

The Italian news agency ANSA said police swooped on addresses in six cities in Italy — Rome, Naples, Turin, Florence, Bologna and Catanzaro in the southern region of Calabria — and seized an unspecified amount of material.

Yangon sees biggest student protest in years

YANGON (R) — Myanmar students Wednesday staged their biggest protest in years against the country's military government.

About 700 students held a sit-in at the Yangon Institute of Technology campus, about 12 km north of the city centre.

Truckloads of helmeted riot police armed with shields and batons surrounded the campus, blocking off roads leading there after the protest began at about 9.30 a.m. (0300 GMT).

A diplomat contacted in Yangon from Bangkok quoted witnesses as saying the students shouted for the downfall of the military government which took power by crushing a student-led pro-democracy uprising 10 years ago.

Other witnesses said the students were demanding the postponement of examinations.

Security police prevented correspondents from visiting the scene, but the diplomat said witnesses heard the students shouting pro-democracy slogans, including: "We don't want a military government. We're not afraid of you."

A university official told Reuters school authorities asked the students to leave the campus and began sending them back to their hostels in the late afternoon.

A government spokesman said all the students dispersed and the authorities had not had to intervene.

Universities thought the country have been closed since student protests in 1996, but reopened recently to allow students to take examinations.

On Aug. 24, students at the institute and from Yangon University staged the first open street protests against the government since the 1996 demonstrations.

In those August protests, which were broken up by riot police, the protesters gave out leaflets backing opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy's vow to convene a parliament.

The ruling State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) has warned the NLD through the state press it could be outlawed if it tried to carry out its vow and that the armed forces would not stand idle if it tried to stir up unrest.

In a statement Wednesday the government said an NLD parliament would amount to setting up a parallel government, "which no government in the world would accept".

It said the Karen National Union, an ethnic rebel group that has fought for decades for greater autonomy for the Karen state, would act as the armed wing of the NLD, endangering the government's national reconciliation efforts.

"In this scenario the government of Myanmar will be left with no choice but to take necessary legal action in safeguarding its national security," the statement said.

A government spokesman added: "We can't allow national security to be affected. We are ready to take all necessary action once it is in danger. But it is too early to say what exact measures we will take."

Wednesday morning, foreign diplomats met Suu Kyi in Yangon to discuss her party's standoff with the government.

A spokesperson for the U.S. embassy called it "a routine meeting" with a legal political party, adding that the aim was "to foster dialogue, national reconciliation and a peaceful transition to democracy".

One diplomat said Suu Kyi, the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize winner, had shown no sign of willingness to compromise with the military, which has long refused to enter a dialogue with her.

"I'm not optimistic about compromise. She's playing hardball," the diplomat said.

Suu Kyi told supporters last weekend she intends to convene a "People's Parliament" in September.

The diplomat said Suu Kyi, who has staged a series of gruelling roadside protests against restrictions on her movements in the last two months, showed no signs of ill-health, despite worries expressed last month by her party.

"Her health is apparently fine. She was bright and chirpy and quite cheerful," the diplomat said.

Cambodia's king Sihanouk proposes talks to end poll crisis

PHNOM PENH (R) — Cambodia's constitutional monarch King Norodom Sihanouk Wednesday called for talks between the country's main political parties in an effort to end the crisis over the outcome of last month's election.

The king called for talks between representatives of government leader Hun Sen's victorious Cambodian People's Party (CPP) and the two main opposition parties led by deposed co-Premier Prince Norodom Ranariddh and former Finance Minister Sam Rainsy.

Officials from all three parties said representatives would attend the talks.

Sihanouk had also asked representatives of the National Election Committee (NEC) and the country's highest appeals body, the Constitutional Council, to attend the talks from Saturday to Monday in the northern town of Siem Reap where he has been staying.

The CPP won 64 of the 122 National Assembly seats in the July 26 election but Ranariddh, whose party won 43 seats and Sam Rainsy, whose party got 15, allege that the CPP won because of fraud and intimidation.

The CPP will not control the necessary two-thirds of seats to form a government alone and Ranariddh, a son of Sihanouk, and Sam Rainsy have threatened to boycott the new assembly, blocking formation of a government, unless their grievances are addressed.

Both the NEC and the Constitutional Council rejected all opposition complaints.

Sihanouk said in a statement he had called the talks to "examine various problems which have occurred and have caused a great political crisis".

Earlier Wednesday Ranariddh said he hoped the king could convince the government to compromise on the opposition demands.

Hun Sen and other top CPP officials are due to travel to Siem Reap for a meeting with Sihanouk Thursday.

"I would like to... appeal to His Majesty the King... to convince the leadership of the CPP to be reasonable, to compromise and positively respond to the will of the people... and our demands," Ranariddh told a news conference.

But Ranariddh warned that the opposition would not take up their seats in parliament or participate in the formation of a government until four key points were addressed.

Ranariddh and Sam Rainsy said Tuesday they wanted a reconciliation of all used, unused and reserve ballot papers.

They also wanted sufficient recounts to verify the result and fresh votes in areas where there was strong evidence of fraud or where the difference between parties' tallies was very small.

Assembly seats should be allocated under a different version of a formula the NEC used, they said, because the formula was illegally changed before the election to a version that favours the largest party.

"If there's no solution it will be a very difficult future for Cambodia," Ranariddh said. "But we still have 20 days," he said, referring to the September 24 date when the assembly is due to convene.

Hun Sen has said if he cannot form a new government he will continue to govern with his current administration. Political analysts said that would not be constitutional but it might be the only choice Hun Sen has.

Several thousand students joined a sit-down protest outside parliament and the royal palace Wednesday and called for Hun Sen to step down. They also marched to local offices of the European Union (EU), which provided some \$11 million in electoral support and fielded the largest team of observers for the vote.

The protesters called for the EU to reconsider its assessment of the polls. A U.N.-coordinated team of international observers, including the EU poll-watchers, said just after the election that it was sufficiently free and fair.

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Priority to education

THE START of the new school year this week coincides with the deliberations of a scientific seminar that is being organised by the Higher Council for Science and Technology. Scholars and researchers who are presenting papers at the week-long seminar are reminding us that all is not well in our educational system. Fresh in our minds is this year's waste and frustration of the efforts of thousands of young people who sat for the Tawjihi exam. Those who failed and those who passed. Those with very high marks, but who were left stranded because they could not find a seat at our public universities. And those who cannot afford the high fees to enrol at private universities.

This annual gruelling experience for students and parents alike, the futility of the exam and all the shortcomings of our educational system have been discussed — almost every season — researched and documented and hundreds of recommendations worked out. But so far, the system seems to defy any reform with no hope in sight for its redemption.

At every seminar, symposium, conference or meeting, whether devoted to the economy, labour, poverty or unemployment, education pops up as the most important factor that hinders our progress at all levels. All of these functions come up with recommendations that add up to previous recommendations made at the end of educational conferences.

All these seminars and conferences, of course, identify funding as the missing element in the process. Funds are needed to build schools, to equip them and, most importantly, to train teachers and improve their standard of living. The cost of teaching one student in Jordanian schools, it has been determined, is very low when compared to those in many successful Third World countries.

Now that we are discussing our spending priorities before writing our budget for next year, we ought to remember that the number one priority is education. Education should have priority over all other pressing issues, even health and poverty. An educated person is more capable of providing for himself or herself and of taking better care of his or her health. Education is the secret of nations' progress. We cannot afford to wait any longer to direct our resources to areas with higher yields.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i's Fahed Fanek said the government still faces a steep climb to fulfil its promise of transparency. The call for the enhancement of democracy and transparency dates back many years. Jordan has witnessed a multitude of lectures and workshops praising the advantages and detailing the importance of the issue. On an almost daily basis, a symposium is held or an article is written outlining its magnitude. But for all the talk there has been very little action, said Fanek. He observed that people, while discussing concepts of democracy and transparency, are yet to grasp their true meaning. Moreover, he remarked that those people, who crow the loudest, often have a vested interest in maintaining the status quo. Fanek quotes a minister as justifying the transfer of the government commission's report on the water crisis into the hands of the attorney general — which bans the press from further discussing the issue — by saying "because it was the only way to ensure that the names of people accused would not leak to the public before they were found guilty." But the names are commonly known, argues Fanek. If this is to be the way the new government chooses to handle matters, then the press should refrain from commenting on anything (crime, violations of law, etc.) until a verdict has been given — maybe after a month, maybe after a year. Fanek concluded that neither the new Press and Publications Law, nor the law on the protection of state documents enhances transparency. On the contrary, they present a means for the government to obscure the issues at hand. The writer said that while the government trumpets the transparency drive, it does not even make minutes of Cabinet meetings public, as is the norm in most democracies. This further signifies the long struggle ahead for Jordan on its march to democracy.

View from Academia

The need to address Palestinian home demolitions

Dr Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

HARDLY A DAY passes without us hearing about yet another Palestinian home being demolished by Israeli bulldozers in this or that occupied Palestinian neighbourhood or town. According to some estimates, Israel has demolished 112 homes in the West Bank alone and 14 in Arab East Jerusalem since the start of the year. Other estimates put the number at 410, excluding tens of tents and shacks belonging to peasants and bedouins, and excluding demolitions of homes belonging to Arabs living in Israel itself. We have also been informed, by Israeli human rights groups, of "a steady increase in house demolitions in recent years."

There are two stated reasons for what has become a constant Israeli practice: the first has to do with homes of families a member of which is either convicted or suspected of a "terrorist" act, the second with homes "built without legal permits."

These two justifications are not only misleading and false, but they are also cruel and wrong. They reflect clearly the ugly, inhuman face of occupation. For one thing, why should all family members be punished for the sin of one member — assuming, of course, that the person "suspected" or "accused" of a "terrorist" act has indeed committed the act, and assuming that the act committed is in fact a "terrorist" act? The term "terrorism" has come to mean so many things to so many people these days that it has almost lost its meaning.

More importantly, I do not think that human beings the world over do subscribe to the logic that the fathers, mothers, brothers, and sisters should be held responsible for the actions of a relative. The very logic of the first reason Israel gives for the demolition of homes, is itself highly illogical, and it is the kind of logic that can be practised and condoned only in a colonialist, imperialist, fascist, dictatorial or racist environment.

The second reason Israel gives (failure to obtain legal construction permits) is ironic indeed. It is almost a joke. Is not the Israeli occupation of Palestinian land itself illegal? How can an illegal, unlawful and illegitimate entity such as the Israeli occupation authorities, pretend to be concerned over the legality or illegality of construction in a land which is not theirs at a time when they defy interna-

tional legality and continue to occupy a land which they have been asked by the international community to give back? (Forget the Oslo agreement and the Washington declaration which the present Israeli government has almost put to death).

Suppose, however, that the Palestinians buy into Israel's illegal legality, as well as the tacit claim that Palestinians should apply before they construct, and do in fact apply for legal construction permits. Would they be issued such permits by the Israeli authorities? The answer is, obviously, no. Otherwise, what prevents the Palestinians from applying?

The irony becomes even more stark when we see Israel shamelessly acting out double standards right in the open, demolishing "illegal" Palestinian homes and supporting settlers to either build in illegal settlements or, worse, confiscate Palestinian land and build illegal settlements on it. The international community has made it clear, through so many U.N. resolutions, that the Israeli settlements in occupied Palestinian territories are illegal. How come the Israeli government not only tolerates, but also publicly supports and espouses, the construction and expansion of settlements?

We know why Israel demolishes Palestinian homes. The Israeli government knows that we know why it does it. It is not a reaction against a "terrorist" act, nor is it out of concern for lawfulness and legality — or urban planning. The Israeli government is after Palestinian land and after the promotion of occupation. When it demolishes homes, it is trying to achieve two aims at once. By not allowing Palestinians to build new homes or to expand existing ones, it is a) making their life extremely uncomfortable, in the hope that they may ultimately give up the fight and leave their homeland and b) making sure that enough space remains to be confiscated and used for Jewish settlement and expansion purposes. The demolition of Palestinian homes is part and parcel of Israel's policy of the depopulation of Palestinian territories.

What needs to be done?

Unfortunately, not much is done about this. The only ones who seem to be doing something tangible are, ironically, Israelis. Some Israeli human rights groups have been staging demonstrations, have been bringing the matter to the attention of the media, and have been writing letters objecting to the practice. Such efforts

are indeed highly appreciated, and one cannot but hope for more efforts of this kind, as well as the escalation of resistance by Israelis to such a practice. All peace advocates in Israel are called upon to exert more pressure on their government to refrain from demolishing Palestinian homes.

This is not only in the interest of the Palestinians, but it is also in the interest of the Israelis and in the interest of the cause of peace. Some in Israel (i.e. the Israeli government and the hardliners) may think it smart to procrastinate, obstruct peacemaking with Palestinians and gain Palestinian land through house demolition and confiscation. Such a policy is not at all smart, for it ultimately creates more obstacles in the path of peace — a peace which is needed to guarantee Israel's security.

The Palestinians themselves and their Arab brethren are called upon to do more than they are presently doing, to bring this matter to the attention of the international community, in an attempt to exert pressure on the Israeli government to halt such dangerous practice. The matter of legality in particular needs to be addressed, and our lawyers are called upon to do more than they are doing. I have talked to some and, in their opinion, what Israel is doing in this regard is a war crime. The Palestinians and Arabs may ask for a U.N. fact-finding mission, prior to filing a legal complaint against the Israeli government.

Palestinian peace negotiators may also — the minute the peace process is resumed — give priority in their agenda (as HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, suggested on more than one occasion) to Palestinian housing needs. It is their right to build homes and expand on their land.

The sight of a homeless Palestinian family sitting angry, dejected, and helpless on the remains of what was a home is not a pretty sight. It does not reflect well on the image of Israel which — as the third millennium has almost dawned on us — is still selfish, racist, and cruel. And it does not bode well for peace and security for all. It is ultimately peace that brings security to both Palestinians and Israelis. But we cannot remain tongue-tied until peace materialises. The matter of house demolitions needs to be addressed now.

Gun diplomacy is unacceptable

By George S. Hishmeh
 Special to the Jordan Times

SHOULD THE United States be allowed to get away with its "gun diplomacy" after it futilely hurled 79 cruise-missiles from its armada at alleged terrorist sites in the Sudan and Afghanistan following the bombing of two American embassies in East Africa last month?

The initial praise given the scandal-plagued American president, William Jefferson Clinton, is now slowly giving way to some but insufficient sober thinking, interestingly spearheaded by some former officials of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). This is not to say that the voices championing an all-out, Israeli-style confrontation have scurried away into some darkened corner.

The American case against the pharmaceutical firm in Khartoum stands out as one stark example of how U.S. statements justifying their action turned out to be — in the words of the New York Times — "inaccurate, misleading or open to question."

More striking is the administration's refusal to accept an international inquiry into the practices of the Sudanese pharmaceutical firm, Al Shifa, which has reportedly been absolved of wrong-doing by some European governments and engineers. In fact, several chemical-weapons experts have told the Times that Empta, a precursor chemical used to make VX, the deadly nerve gas, is chemically similar to several commercially available pesticides and herbicides.

Raymond Close, who worked for some 26 years for the CIA — his first job in 1952 was to recruit Palestinian informants at refugee camps in Lebanon — argued in an Op-Ed article in the Washington Post last Sunday that "most" Americans accept the premise that "terrorism is a phenomenon that can be

defeated only by better ideas, by persuasion and, most importantly, by amelioration of the conditions that inspire it."

He wondered that if intelligent Americans can accept that premise as "a reasonable basis for dealing with this nemesis, why is it so difficult for our leaders to speak and act accordingly?"

Similarly, Graham Fuller, a former vice chairman of the National Intelligence Council at the CIA, explained in a recent article in the Los Angeles Times, that "these terrorist attacks have not taken place in a vacuum."

He pointed out: It is dangerous to divorce terrorism from politics, yet the U.S. media continue to talk about an abstract "war against terrorism" without mention of the issues or context that lie behind them.

"If a war against terrorism is coming," he added, "we had better start discussing and understanding more clearly the depth and range of impulses that drive people in the Middle East — a discussion so far stunningly absent from our public discourse."

Why so, he asked but regrettably did not provide an answer except to underline, quite correctly, the perceptions in the region. These, according to Fuller, are in part:

"U.S. support for almost any ruler willing to protect U.S. interests — routinely identified in Washington as oil and Israel. They see a Washington unwilling to act even-handedly in the Arab-Israeli peace process and infinitely tolerant of a hardline government in Israel that denies Palestinians land, dignity and statehood. They perceive double standards that allow Israel to violate U.N. resolutions, but not Iraq; that Israeli nukes are OK, but not nukes in Muslim hands. They see routine use of U.S. unilateral military power against Muslim targets that is unparalleled elsewhere in the world. They see them-

selves routinely humbled by use of overwhelming Israeli military power. They see U.S. military forces in the Gulf as being there to protect ruling families and not populations — the essence of (Saudi renege) Osama Ben Laden's charge."

He continued:

"Muslims are concerned that there are no Muslim-Americans involved in high level U.S. policy-making in the Middle East, but that Jewish-Americans occupy nearly every single senior position relating to U.S. Arab-Israeli policy. They perceive no interest in Washington in pushing any kind of democratising agenda in the region, and they hear casual talk of Islam as 'incompatible with democracy.' They see Iraqi children dying of disease and starvation as a result of U.S. sanctions."

Fuller may have hit the nail on the head, but there is still room for raising more forcefully additional points in the American media. In this respect, Arab-Americans and the Arab diplomatic corps, all sorely absent from this exchange, should attempt at waging a frontal attack.

There is no doubt that it was a feat for American intelligence to be able within three weeks to drag two Arabs here from Kenya on charges of involvement in the reprehensible assault on the embassies. The extradition was surely the right way to go about it rather than blast off with million-dollar missiles at the two hapless Muslim states, and without much to show for it.

Would it not have been much wiser for the Clinton administration to go along with the 100 or so countries which met in Rome recently to sign the agreement for a new international criminal court. The days of "vigilante justice" should remain confined to Hollywood and not Foggy Bottom.

The third way suggested by Edward Said

By Pascal B. Karmy

EDWARD SAID, the well-known Palestinian intellectual and professor at Columbia University, USA, recently published an article in Le Monde Diplomatique monthly magazine, entitled "Israel-Palestine, une troisième voie" (Israel-Palestine, a third way).

In his article, Edward Said starts by saying that the Oslo Accord have appeared to be neither operative nor practicable: it is time for Arabs, Israelis and others who defend the accord to see things in a clearer light. The word "peace" has been discredited and does not constitute a guarantee against oppression of the Palestinian people. How can one speak about peace while Israel, through sheer power and arrogance, continues to destroy houses and confiscate land and detain and torture people, he asks. This is comparable, he says, to what the Roman historian Tacitus said about the conquest of England by the Romans: "The Roman soldiers have brought desolation and we have given it the name of peace."

Edward Said goes on to say that we cannot end the deadlock by going back to the period prior to the war of 1967, nor can we revert to the slogans of "rejection" and "segregation." It is equally ineffectual to try to boycott Israel or the Israelis as called for by certain intellectual and progressive Arabs.

Edward Said then states that although the Jewish people suffered from the Holocaust, and some of them have been victims of anti-semitism, they do not have the right to pursue a policy of dispossession against another people who is not responsible at all for that misery. According to Edward Said, Arabs have had no military option in this conflict for more than twenty years, and it is not likely that there will be one in the foreseeable future. Nevertheless, notwithstanding the enormous power which Israel enjoys, it has not been able to achieve its desired security.

We now come to the core of Edward Said's article. He suggests a third way to get out of this deadlock, which differs from the failed Oslo Accord and from the retrograde policy of boycotting. This third way should be conceived in terms of "citizenship."

This concept of "citizenship" implies that every individual enjoys the same rights founded not on race or religion, but on an equality of justice guaranteed by the constitution. This concept is irreconcilable with the outmoded notion of a Palestine cleansed of its enemies.

Just as Azmi Bichara and the new historian Ilan Pappé amongst others, call for equality of rights to both Jews and Palestinians living in the state of Israel, one cannot see why, Edward Said asks, this same principle of equality of rights should not be

applied to the occupied territories where Palestinians and Jews live side by side. Otherwise, considering that at present Israeli Jews dominate over Palestinians, the only other option will be "apartheid."

Criticism of Edward Said's third way

The first observation that I would like to make is that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has from the outset proposed a state of Palestine in which Jews, Muslims and Christians enjoy the same rights of citizenship and equality before the law. But the Israelis claimed that the proposal spelled the destruction of Israel. The Palestinian proposal, which was a part of the PLO Charter, was years later discarded and deemed null and void by Arafat himself, later by the Central Committee of the PLO, and subsequently by the PNA.

The third way of Edward Said is utopian, especially as far as the Israelis are concerned. He himself admits that the Israelis are preponderant and dominant; they will not therefore accept it, even if the Palestinians do. I wonder whether Edward Said will be able to convince the hot-headed Israelis in the occupied territories of his third way. He intends with his article that we should resist the building of settlements by non-violent demonstrations, but he knows very

well, as he visited the occupied territories more than once, that hundreds of demonstrations have been to no avail and every time a Palestinian house is destroyed, the Israeli army is present to defend the destroyers and violently push away the demonstrators. The Israelis confiscate land by force with the Israeli army to support them, and as such are colonists of the worst kind. The Palestinians cannot here apply Gandhi's principle of non-violence and peaceful resistance as the circumstances are quite different. In the case of India, British colonialism did not intend to supplant Indians by, nor did they build settlements for British citizens to live, as is the case in the occupied territories.

Edward Said should go to the Israeli settlers with his third way proposal of equality and preach to them. They will meet him with sarcasm and expel him from their midst. Therefore, inasmuch as Israel and the settlers are using violence and force against the Palestinians to achieve their objectives, whether as regards occupation of land, building of settlements or expansion of Jerusalem, it is only logical and right that the Palestinians should defend their rights.

The writer was an advocate in Palestine in 1944 and, for many years, legal officer at UNRWA headquarters in Beirut and Vienna. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

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By Abhik Kumar

By Jean-Lauder

The ne for spe

It is your only concern... the PC world has not... interested in features... quality monitors that are gen

Society on the move

Ambassadors big and small

LAST NIGHT the staff of the French embassy got their turn to bid adieu to Ambassador Bernard Bajelet who after four-and-a-half years is leaving Amman. Bajelet will return to his home in France and take several weeks holiday. During that time he expects to receive his new assignment. An active and involved envoy, Bajelet contributed significantly to solidifying Franco-Jordanian relations in nearly every sphere. A certainly memorable moment was the visit of President Jacques Chirac in late October 1996. At the time Chirac's two-day visit to the Kingdom and his address before His Majesty King Hussein and Parliament were hailed by the country. Bajelet is scheduled to leave for France on Monday. His successor, Bernard Emie, is due to arrive in Amman on September 10. A graduate of both l'Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris and the Ecole Nationale d'Administration, the 40-year-old Emie began his diplomatic career in 1983. He has served in New Delhi and Washington, was head of the office of Foreign Minister Alain Juppé from 1993 to 1995, and since then has been assistant diplomatic advisor for the Middle East and North Africa to the French presidency. Emie brings with him his family — wife Isabelle and two young daughters.

Keeping up with other French ambassadors we have learned that Bajelet's predecessor in Amman, Denis Bauchard has been nominated as France's ambassador to Canada. Bauchard served in Amman from 1989-1993.

sis is the theme of the new exhibition at the Jordan National Gallery opening this evening under the patronage of HRH Princess Rahma bint El-Hassan. The two artists featured bring not only varying media of work to the gallery but interesting backgrounds with multicultural roots. Dr. Bashir Makhoul was born in Galilee and educated in fine art and theory in the U.K. He obtained his B.A. at Liverpool Polytechnic, and his Masters and Ph.D. from Manchester Metropolitan University. He was coordinator for the Centre for Art International Research at Liverpool John Moores University and currently is a senior lecturer at Sheffield-Hallam University. Bashir has teamed up with colleague Alnoor Mitha for the artists' first exhibition in Amman. Mitha, whose parents are from India, was born in Uganda but left during the 1972 upheavals and settled in the U.K. He began his studies at Wolverhampton University, was later awarded a scholarship to complete his higher education at the Ecole de Bruca in Angers, France. Returning to London he was awarded a commonwealth scholarship to study for his masters in fine arts at Baroda University in India. Back again to England Mitha settled in Manchester and has been balancing his creativity between his own art works and curating the works of other artists at various museums and galleries, a trend which he says is now commonplace among artists in England. Both Makhoul and Mitha have held several exhibits of their works. Their art on display until Oct. 1 will include painting, photographs, and mixed media.

With the Scotland based volunteer organisation called Project Trust, but this year a good number of children at some very special schools will get to benefit from one of the PT's new projects. Six 18-year-old high school graduates are taking a year before entering university to volunteer their time as teaching assistants in Jordan. The young team is made up of Helen Tunney and Cariona McKenzic (assigned to the Young Women's Muslim Association School), Jonathan Sharp and Michael Charters (assigned to the School for Modern Education for the mentally challenged), and Matthew Ball and Rakesh Ramchurn (assigned to the Schneller School). Project Trust director in Jordan Usha Reissnider said her hope is to introduce a summer programme for young volunteers from the U.K. to team up with young partners from Jordan through the Friends of Children Society to work at community centres in refugee camps. Meanwhile Reissnider and her husband Matthew, a minister at the Assemblies of God will have their hands full keeping up with the enthusiasm of the six new charges.

Seven-year-old Dania Abdul Jabar (left), who had plastic surgery for burns to her face and hands and Isra Abdul Wahab (right), 6, who successfully underwent open-heart surgery, returned Monday from the United States as reported earlier this week. This happy picture was made available to JT a day after their arrival at Queen Alia International Airport in transit home to Baghdad. They are escorted by Mohammad Fawzi of the International Relief Agency (IRA)



MULTICULTURAL "SYMBIOSIS": "SYMBIO-

YOUNG VOLUNTEERS: You may not be famil-

Jennifer Hamarnich

The anniversary of Mother Teresa's death

Mother Teresa's grave secure from tourist hordes

By Abhik Kumar Chanda
Agence France Presse

MOTHER TERESA'S final resting place — a simple grave in her order's spartan headquarters here — has managed to remain a site for pilgrims, rather than gawking tourists, since her death a year ago.

The memorial to the "Saint of the Gutters" attracts around 200 visitors a day, but relatively few are of the camera-wielding, package-tour variety.

For the Missionaries of Charity, their "Beloved Mother Teresa" lives on in spirit in the ground floor hall facing a busy Calcutta street.

The rectangular room is open for visitors morning and evening, except for Thursdays when the nuns are engaged in day-long prayers.

A wooden plaque at the entrance gives the visiting hours under the simple message "Visitors (Mother)" to distinguish it from the main entrance to the headquarters.

Sister Nirmala, Mother Teresa's successor as head of the order, said the grave attracted a steady flow of visitors.

"On some days there are 100, some days there are 200 and on some days there are more," she said. "We do not count. But there is a constant flow."

"They come here to pray and to seek solace," she said, briding at the suggestion that it had become a tourist destination. "It is a place of pilgrimage," she said.

Jayanta Sanjal, tourism secretary of West Bengal state of which Calcutta — Mother Teresa's adopted home for several decades — is capital, said the government was not overtly pushing the grave site as a tourist spot.

"It is a private property and we cannot really publicise it," he said. "But it is part of a package group of tours conducted by private operators and guides. Some tourist buses stop on the road and people can see the grave from the bus as the windows of the room are very big."

'I come here to see Mother Teresa. She very big in Japan'

"Those who want to go inside, do," Sanjal said there were no plans to promote the grave overseas as "we used to jokingly say that Mother Teresa is one of the biggest tourist draws in Calcutta."

The marble grave is adorned with a crucifix and inscribed with the words: "Love one another as I have loved you" — a message from the Gospel of St. John.

Ashok Banerjee, director of the federal tourist office for northeastern India, said in his view the grave should not be promoted at all.

"The sanity and serenity of the place will be

disturbed. We have seen that overkill on wildlife reserves harms animals, and forests are strewn with garbage and litter."

Banerjee also gave a nod to those critics in Calcutta who accused Mother Teresa of denigrating their city in the eyes of the world.

"We do not want to depict Calcutta as a poor city full of beggars and lepers. We do not want that image," he said.

For Koji Shirasaka, a Japanese student praying at the grave, the argument went unheeded.

"I come here to see Mother Teresa," he said in halting English. "She very big in Japan."

Vignettes and writings on Mother Teresa's life adorn the white-washed sides of the long hall, and the story of her "last journey" is pasted on a wall at the head of her grave.

Written in a homespun style by French-born nun Sister Fabienne, one of her oldest associates, it runs: "Your going to Jesus came to us as a thunderclap."

"All of us were rejoicing to see you day after day amongst us, simply forgetting that Jesus said: 'You do not know the day or the hour.'"

Another inscription starts: "Mother Teresa, you'll never be replaced. She was gifted with rare charisma that cannot be acquired in a lifetime."

That charisma ensures pin-drop silence in the hall where admirers from all faiths pray without a sound.

"There are nuns there throughout the day," said Sunita Kumar, an old co-worker of the order.

"But they don't have to patrol... for those who come, it is a place of worship."



Top and below, Mother Teresa's grave in Calcutta. The memorial to the 'Saint of the Gutters' attracts around 200 visitors a day. A wooden plaque at the entrance gives the visiting hours under the simple message "Visitors (Mother)" (AFP photo)



The need for speed

By Jean-Claude Elias

IT SEEMS like all that PC users worry about these days is the speed, the performance of their computer. Whether they are shopping around for a new machine or thinking of upgrading an existing one, the main subject of their dreams — the obsession I should say — can be expressed in one single unit: megahertz, the clock rate of the microprocessor (the CPU).

It's as if your only concern when buying a new car would be its top speed. It has become virtually irrelevant these days. It's even old-fashioned. Most modern cars can do between 160 and 200 kilometres per hour, and anyway you don't even care for stringent speed limits are implemented on every highway. Speed used to be an issue in the post WWII era, in the fifties and the sixties. It is not the case anymore. Instead of pure speed you now look for security, reliability and comfort in a car.

Maybe the PC world has not yet reached the age of maturity that cars have. Nevertheless personal computers have evolved enough to make us interested in features and characteristics other than the pure speed of the main CPU. Quality monitors that are gentle on the eyes,

silent cooling fans that keep the environment quiet and removable storage devices that let you make additional security copies of your data files have become as important if not more important than CPU speed. So have accurate and comfortable mice, ergonomic keyboards, power protection and regulation equipment and quality sound cards and speakers. Not to forget adequate software and proper training.

Manufacturers are pushing us to buy faster CPUs. Every three or four months new microprocessors are released. Intel, AMD and Cyrix, the designers and makers of CPUs for personal computers keep users constantly craving for faster chips. But the benefit of moving from say a 266 MHz (megahertz) processor to a 300 MHz is not always obvious. Still we badly want it. It's trendy, it's flashy, it's in.

The industry won't take a break, and contrary to driving speed limits on the road, nobody is ever going to put a speed limit on microprocessors. Maybe it's up to the users of PCs to reach the age of reason and realise that there are many aspects in a computer that are more important than the CPU's clock rate.

chip talk



Jordanian stocks at seven-week low as industrials fall

AMMAN (R) — Jordanian investors dumped shares in industrial blue-chip Arab Potash Wednesday to push the official Amman share index to a seven-week low. Brokers said Arab Potash shares, which fell by the daily limit of five per cent to 4.28 dinars (\$6.0), were still reacting to a slump in the value of their Global Depository Receipts (GDRs) on international markets after poor half-year results.

Losses in the key mining firm helped drag the official 60-share Amman Financial Index (AFI) down for a fifth consecutive day to end the trading week at 177.18 points — its lowest level since mid-July.

The index of industrial shares lost two per cent. Falling shares beat gains by 24 to seven in the overall market, and brokers said they could see few signs that the losses would be reversed next week.

They said the gloom on the Amman bourse was due to domestic woes — high interest rates and political uncertainty in the Middle East — not the instability in global markets.

Arab Gulf's aluminium heavyweights take on European Union bureaucracy

DUBAI (AFP) — The Gulf's aluminium smelters are braced for a diplomatic war with the European Union (EU) over what they say is an uncompetitive tax on their exports to the economic bloc.

The EU, which represents a quarter of the world market for aluminium, looks a promising candidate to absorb Dubai's growing output.

"We are becoming too big to place all our product into the Asian market. You just can't keep pouring metal into a limited market," said Malcolm McHale, Dubai's general manager of marketing and sales.

Under Dubai's \$725-million Condor expansion, its output will increase by 135,000 tonnes a year, or 35 per cent, making Dubai the largest smelter in the Middle East.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1998

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Something you've been thinking about replacing could be fixed instead. You don't know how, but a friend does. If you need to pay this person, it might be worth the money, but a trade is also possible. It looks like you have something this other person needs, too.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Don't be dismayed if you run into an obstacle today. Life is full of obstacles, but they're only there to make us stronger. You might as well look at it like that. They're made to be dissolved, climbed over, crawled around or somehow managed. Think of them as building blocks and treat them accordingly.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A foreigner may have just the answer you're looking for — regarding your home or someone you live with, or a different way of looking at the situation there. Let people know what's going on with you. How else can they give you their sage advice?

CANCER: (June 22 to July 21) There's no shortage of money out there. All you have to do is find a need and fill it. You're good at that, too. Did you know that Cancer is the sign of the multimillionaire? It's not just because you're good at taking care of other people. It's also because you hold on to what you have.

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JORDAN FINANCIAL REPORT													
HOUSING BANK CENTER - AMMAN - JORDAN													
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179													
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 02/09/1998													
PART	12	MONTHS	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF	NO. OF	VALUE	OPEN	CLOSE	CHANGE		
HIGH	LOW					TRANS.	SHARES	TRADED JD		PRICE			
S	355.500	170.000	ARAB BANK	18.1	.90	30	1550	341830	221.00	221.50	.50+		
	2.100	1.620	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	13.5	4.22	4	2850	4731	1.66	1.66	-		
	2.680	1.950	INDUSTRIAL INV. BK.	11.1	6.56	4	1750	2765	1.99	1.98	-.01		
	6.810	2.610	THE BOSSING BK.	19.5	3.25	27	7521	233018	3.08	3.08	-.01		
	4.000	1.690	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	17.8	0.00	3	1000	1739	1.74	1.74	-		
S	3.900	1.350	JOR. INV. FID. BANK	22.9	3.26	2	500	745	1.51	1.49	-.02		
	.930	.600	WELFARE INV. BK.	7	0.00	52	169028	113911	.69	.68	-.01		
BANK SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 292.43 CHG: +0.15 122 251892 698739													
S	2.240	1.470	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	9.7	5.50	28	16076	24228	1.51	1.50	-.01		
	1.500	.800	REAL. PORTFOLIO	31.1	0.00	4	1750	1368	.80	.78	-.02		
	1.120	.680	REAL ESTATE INV.	14.3	0.00	1	100	73	.71	.73	.02+		
	.990	.320	JORDAN INV. TRAD.	9	0.00	1	100	30	.32	.30	-.02		
	7.100	5.460	AD-POSTAGE	23.1	3.94	1	200	1140	6.00	5.70	-.30		
S	1.480	1.060	MID. EAST HOTELS	9	0.00	3	3611	4006	1.12	1.11	-.01		
S	4.600	1.880	ARAB INV. INV. SEC.	9.8	2.02	2	1200	2376	2.00	1.98	-.02		
	1.970	.890	KANSA EDUCATION	20.8	0.00	2	1100	390	.89	.89	-.01		
	1.830	1.060	DRIFTED CO.	4.9	10.00	8	1750	1947	1.12	1.10	-.02		
	1.350	.950	UNITED FOR FINAN. INV.	1.4	5.90	3	1100	1204	1.15	1.09	-.06		
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 109.41 CHG: -0.38 54 27021 37424													
S	3.900	1.840	JOR. COBALT FACT.	11.5	5.67	5	1093	2117	1.94	1.94	-		
	4.110	1.600	JOR. PROSPEX MINES	16.9	0.00	3	850	1360	1.60	1.60	-.01		
	6.500	4.500	ARAB POTASH CO.	21.1	4.67	5	20650	88842	4.50	4.28	-.22		
	12.250	10.050	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	10.3	8.42	7	198	2090	10.58	10.56	-.02		
	1.710	1.060	INDUSTRIAL COMM. SEC.	67.9	0.00	2	1000	1150	1.18	1.15	-.03		
	5.740	2.400	ARAB PHARM. MANF.	7.3	2.83	22	4814	12772	3.68	2.65	-.03		
WS	5.590	1.120	JOR. CHEMICAL IND.	4.8	9.09	8	48400	53280	1.16	1.10	-.06		
	6.250	4.700	DAR ALBAMA DV. INV.	6.8	5.24	2	250	1403	5.66	5.61	.05		
	2.980	1.720	ARAB ALUM. IND.	12.6	14.71	1	250	425	1.72	1.70	-.02		
	.870	.400	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	13.5	0.00	6	11200	4379	.40	.40	-.01		
	1.100	.670	ARAB PAPER CORP. TR.	23.8	0.00	1	200	156	.80	.78	-.02		
	.830	.390	NATIONAL STEEL IND.	9	0.00	1	400	172	.43	.43	-.01		
	.630	.330	NATIONAL STEEL IND.	9	0.00	2	2050	700	.33	.35	.02+		
	.590	.300	INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	1	50	15	.30	.30	-.01		
	1.750	.750	UNIT. COMM. TRAD.	8.2	10.00	4	580	440	.81	.80	-.01		
	4.050	2.700	ALABAMA CO.	21.6	3.11	1	100	257	2.71	2.57	-.14		
	.730	.380	REAL. CABLE WIRE. MFAC	33.3	0.00	3	1450	1028	.71	.71	-.01		
	.700	.390	JOR. SUIFES CORP.	7.4	0.00	4	711	271	.38	.39	.01+		
	.700	.390	KIWIFER INVEST.	9	0.00	9	3800	1894	.49	.50	.01+		
WS	1.300	.570	UNIT. COMM. TRAD.	8.6	11.11	29	16700	9087	.57	.56	-.01		
	1.600	1.200	REAL. CHEMICAL	8.8	8.00	4	1278	1722	1.25	1.25	-.01		
	1.080	.600	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	8.6	16.39	2	1400	854	.61	.61	-		
	1.610	1.150	AL. RAY READY WEAR	42.2	0.00	1	1000	1200	1.20	1.20	-		
S	1.310	.920	INTEL. TOBACCO	6.5	6.27	6	11370	10574	.92	.93	.01+		
	.890	.640	JORDAN STEEL	8.8	8.86	6	12135	9886	.80	.79	-.01		
	.710	.580	WCT. ALUMINUM	31.7	0.00	2	400	259	.65	.64	-.01		
	.670	.530	MID. EAST COMPLEX	9.6	0.00	3	1450	769	.53	.53	-		
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 81.87 CHG: -2.34 140 143799 207098													
GRAND TOTAL INDEX: 177.18 CHG: -0.47 316 422712 943261													
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 02/09/1998													
	.500	.340	JOR. TRADE FAC.	9	0.00	1	1000	390	.40	.39	-.01		
	.800	.500	UNION INV.	9	0.00	11	67950	34655	.51	.51	-		
	.620	.240	ARAB FID. INVEST.	9	0.00	4	6000	1500	.25	.25	-		
	.780	.560	AL-BAHATIA	32.8	0.00	2	5000	2800	.56	.56	-		
	.260	.100	JOR. IND. SEC. JERICO	9	0.00	1	1800	180	.10	.10	-		
	.600	.270	ARAB FOOD & MED.	9	0.00	3	1500	980	.27	.28	.01+		
	.430	.230	ARAB INV. INV. TR.	26.5	0.00	2	1250	288	.23	.23	-		
	.580	.270	REAL. MULT. INV. PORTFOLIO	9	0.00	29	73986	19243	.27	.27	-		
WS	1.220	.760	HEAVY MTL. CORP.	7.9	0.00	1	200	146	.76	.73	-.03		
	.500	.350	ARAB ELECT. IND.	9	0.00	1	3000	1050	.35	.35	-		
	.690	.560	MIDWEST PHARM. 90%	9	0.00	4	3500	1680	.59	.58	-.01		
	1.750	1.100	UNION TOBACCO ST. ST.	10.9	7.31	4	5196	8233	1.72	1.71	-.01		
	.720	.870	REAL. PORTFOLIO	8	0.00	2	1200	670	.87	.87	-.01		
	.350	.200	IND. SEC.	2	0.00	1	10000	1900	.20	.19	-.01		

Justice Greene of the
over his victory in the
sports festival. ISTAF

TODAY AT	<small>CINEMA TEL: 5613414</small> PHILADELPHIA '1' <i>Robert Duvall & Tea Leoni...in</i> DEEP IMPACT Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	<small>CINEMA TEL: 5613414</small> PHILADELPHIA '2' <i>Leonardo Di Caprio... in</i> THE MAN IN THE IRON MASK Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	<small>CINEMA TEL: 5699238</small> PLAZA <i>Comedian Adel Imam ... in</i> AL ZA'EEM Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 <i>Additional shows Thursday and Friday evenings at 12:30</i>	<small>CINEMA TEL: 5677420</small> CONCORD CONCORD '1' <i>Jodi Foster ... in</i> CONTACT Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:45 CONCORD '2' UP CLOSE & PERSONAL Shows: 3:30, 9:30 only	<small>CINEMA TEL: 5934793</small> GALLERIA 1 ABDOUN <i>www.cns.com.fo/Galleria</i> GODZILLA Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:45	<small>CINEMA TEL: 5934793</small> GALLERIA 2 ABDOUN <i>www.cns.com.fo/Galleria</i> CITY OF ANGELS Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 <i>Adel Imam .. in</i> AL ZA'EEM at 10:30 p.m.	Hisham Yanes Theatre TEL: 4625155 WATCH OUT FOR THE NEW PLAY
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8

Sports

Iraq exclaims victory

Arafat

Intern

player

Ferrari

FOR RE

residential area in

large living room

multiple floors, spacious kitchen

entrance and garden area

interested and serious



Maurice Greene of the United States celebrates holding the Stars and Stripes after his victory in the Men's 100 metres at the International Track and Field Sports Festival (ISTAF) in Berlin. Greene won in 9.94 seconds. (AP Photo)

Iraq excluded from 12-team Arab Nations Cup

DOHA (AFP) — Iraq will be excluded from the seventh Arab Nations tournament which begins September 22 in Doha, the Secretary General of the Arab Football Federation Othman al-Saad said Wednesday.

"Iraq will not be invited to participate in the seventh Arab Cup. Iraqi clubs will be re-integrated once the reasons for their exclusion have definitively disappeared," he told AFP. Iraq has been banned from all Arab sporting events since its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. It is unlikely to be allowed to participate until the U.N. embargo is lifted.

The embargo can only be lifted once the United Nations believes it no longer has weapons of mass destruction. Early in August, Iraq said it would suspend cooperation with U.N. weapons inspectors.

In July last year, Iraqi athletes tried to participate in the Pan-Arab games in Beirut, but were refused visas under pressure from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Twelve countries will participate in the Arab Cup including Qatar, Libya, Syria, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Morocco, Lebanon, Algeria, Jordan, Kuwait, Sudan and Saudi Arabia.

Jazireh, Orthodoxi contest Under-16 basketball tourney

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jazireh, Whidat, Ahli, and Orthodoxi Clubs will contest the Under-16 basketball championship finals starting Friday.

The Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) announced the schedule for the final round of the event that will run up to Sept. 15. Two teams from Irbid, Hussein and Ibbin, also qualified to the finals.

Runner-up last year, Al Jazireh ended the first round with an unbeaten record after they scored a 52-49 win over titleholders Al Orthodoxi.

The competition grouped 7 teams from Amman in Group A and five teams from Irbid's in Group B.

The top four in the Amman group qualified to the final round leaving behind Raya, Abu Nussair and Al Jeel, while two teams qualified from the Irbid group leaving behind Gazze Hashem, Ashrafieh and Samma.

William Jones Basketball Tournament Jordan eliminated after 91-67 loss to South Korea

By Samir Janakat in Taiwan and Aileen Bannayan in Amman

JORDAN'S MEN'S basketball team Wednesday lost 91-67 to South Korea and failed to advance to the second round of the 21st International William Jones Basketball Tournament currently underway in Taiwan with 10 teams taking part.

The loss was Jordan's second after they succumbed 77-72 to Chinese Taipei and scored their only win 55-44 over the UAE.

Qualifying to the second round proved to be a difficult task for Jordan who missed four key Jazireh players who did not join the team following their management's decision to withdraw their national team players citing "bias against the club."

To ensure qualification to the second round Jordan had to win first place in Group 1 with tournament regulations stipulating that the host team qualifies to the semi-finals, regardless of its results in the preliminary round.

Therefore taking second place in case Taipei did not take first automatically drops Jordan out of contention because Taipei qualifies with the first placed team.

The Koreans had beaten the UAE

80-65 and had the day off before playing Jordan. They are tournament favourites alongside Japan and the Philippines.

Hilal Barakat scored 26 points for Jordan. The Koreans led 10-5, 24-15 and won the first half 44-34.

Kamal Helou who was hospitalised after abdominal pain, played his first match while it seems centres Ayman Du'eis and Ashraf Samara were not as effective as their teammates missing the lineup.

Scoring shows that most players were held to low averages: Hilal Barakat 26, Nasser Bassam and Ashraf Samara 10, Ayman Du'eis, Jan Sahleih 8, Kamal Helou, Faisal Nsour 2, and Yousef Zaghloul 1.

Jordan is playing in Group 1 alongside Chinese Taipei, UAE, Korea, Malaysia. Group 2 includes Japan, Thailand, Saudi Arabia, the Philippines and Costa Rica.

The top two teams in each group will play in the semifinals while the rest will play for 5th-10th places.

Jordan will next play Malaysia in the last match of the first round.

Onlookers contend had Jordan played with their original lineup they might have qualified to the second round. However, the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) has

demanding an apology from Al Jazireh Club saying their untimely decision "dealt a heavy blow to the national team by pulling out on the night of their departure."

Although the Ministry of Culture and Youth convinced Al Jazireh Club to send their players to join the team JBF president Mudar Majdoub currently in Taiwan said "too late now to send the players."

The JBF had named two other players (one from Orthodoxi and another from Ahli clubs) to the 10-player lineup after Jazireh's four players declined play.

Jordan's team had a training camp in Athens and hosted the Iraqi national team in preparation for the week-long event.

The team includes veterans Hilal Barakat and Yousef Zaghloul, in addition to Nasser Bassam, Faisal Nsour, Fadi Saqqa, Mohammad Shamali, Ayman Du'eis and Ashraf Samara. Jan Sahleih and Kamal Hilou were recalled to the lineup after Ma'an Odeh, Husam Lutfi and Yousef Abu Bakr, Ala' Bilbeisi of Al Jazireh withdrew.

International bans for English players joining Super League

LONDON (AFP) — Top English players taking part in an unauthorised European Super League will be banned from international football.

The threat came from Keith Wiseman, chairman of the English Football Association.

Liverpool, Arsenal and Manchester United are among Europe's top clubs involved in talks with Media Partners, the company behind the controversial idea, and if the concept becomes reality stars like Michael Owen, David Beckham and Tony Adams would be unable to line up for England.

Wiseman said: "I have every reason to believe the clubs will reach accommodation with UEFA and the FA over the next couple of weeks."

"But I think that those seeking the

breakaway are talking about playing unsanctioned football entirely outside the jurisdiction of the whole football body."

"I think it logically follows from that they are not able to play inside it as well."

Yet Wiseman remains optimistic that the Super League proposals will never see the light of day.

"I think the structure of the game will survive and I think it is vital that it does. One only has to look at the problems a sport like rugby union has at the moment to realise how difficult it can be for everyone if there is no clear structure laid down," he said.

"I think the clubs concerned who are highly experienced with a long history will certainly feel that this is the right

way forward."

But there is a recognition that the demand for more matches between Europe's top clubs must be satisfied over the next few years.

Wiseman, speaking on BBC Radio 5, said: "I think there will be a European League almost certainly within the next few years, hopefully from under the structure of the game and with consultation taking place with the major leagues."

But he said it will take UEFA "two or three months" to come up with a viable alternative to fashion the shape of the European football scene into the next millennium.

Indonesian tennis star to quit

JAKARTA (AFP) —

Indonesia's top tennis star Yayuk Basuki, currently ranked World No. 37, plans to retire next year to start a family, her husband and coach was quoted as saying Wednesday.

"Yayuk will turn 28 in November. Time will roll on while we are longing for a baby," her husband Suharyadi told the Jakarta Post before accompanying Yayuk to the U.S. Open in New York.

Her last tournament will be the Australian Open in January of next year, he said, adding the hectic tournament schedule had so far ruled out any chance of her starting a family.

Yayuk, who achieved the highest ranking of her career, world number 19 in October last year, also has hopes of winning the Asian Games singles gold in December, the Post said.

McGwire slams 56th homer to match NL mark

MIAMI (AFP) — St. Louis slugger Mark McGwire matched the National League record here Tuesday by slamming his 56th home run of the season off Cuban pitcher Livan Hernandez of the Florida Marlins.

The blast leaves the Cardinals' first baseman five shy of matching the Major League Baseball mark of 61 set in 1961 by the late Roger Maris of the New York Yankees.

McGwire moved one homer ahead of Dominican star Sammy Sosa of the Chicago Cubs, who has chased him all season and is also on pace to surpass the major league record.

The homer that allowed McGwire to match the 68-year-old NL mark set by former Cub back Wilson led off the seventh inning. McGwire belted a one-ball, one-strike pitch 450 feet over the center-field fence.

McGwire's second home run in three games put him on a pace to hit 66 homers

for the season. The Cardinals have 25 games to play.

It was McGwire's second homer of the season off Hernandez, who has surrendered 31 this season.

Australian-born media baron Rupert Murdoch's Fox network said Tuesday that if McGwire hits 60 homers by September 10, Fox will televise games the next three days in Houston nationwide.

The last of those games gives Murdoch a triumph of sorts over media rival Disney, which outbid Fox for National Hockey League broadcast rights for its ESPN sport network starting in 1999.

The Sunday game was pulled from ESPN by baseball officials when the network planned to show it on an affiliated network with fewer viewers nationwide. Once the rights were pulled the potentially historic game was opened for Fox.

Pembe light

Chad sprang a surprise at Jasper United with scoring the decisive goal and the reward is a visit to Zambia's Nchanga

ed at the same stage last year because Steven e force at home with o previous cup matches. World Cup midfielder n scored twice against m Togo in the first Army of Ivory Coast rick.

Chad sprang a surprise at Jasper United with scoring the decisive goal and the reward is a visit to Zambia's Nchanga

of Senegal will hope to weakness of World Cup s Benzekri when they 1 second division club at in West Africa.

Hispanics Theatre TEL: 4625155

ITCH OUT FOR IE NEW PLAY

Ferrari — Coulthard case closed but no apology

PARIS (AFP) — Ferrari has maintained its theory that David Coulthard was to blame for the accident that forced Michael Schumacher to crash out of Sunday's Belgian Grand Prix.

But in a communique released Wednesday Ferrari said it now considered the incident "closed" and called for a return to a climate of normal sporting relations.

Schumacher looked certain of victory and of taking over the lead in the world championship when he ran into the back of Coulthard's McLaren in driving rain and poor visibility.

The former world champion accused Coulthard of deliberately causing the crash and he tried to confront the Scot in the pits only to be restrained by McLaren officials.

In Wednesday's statement Ferrari spelt out its version of the incident.

The Italian team claimed that for almost all of the 25th lap Coulthard had ignored warning flags and despite several chances had not allowed Schumacher to overtake.

It went on: "On several

occasions Michael Schumacher pulled out to show Coulthard he was behind him, before maintaining a correct distance between the two cars.

"Coulthard slowed down suddenly in the straight in an unexpected manner. Given reduced visibility the collision was inevitable despite Schumacher's efforts to avoid it.

"Ferrari will not be making any further statement on what happened and considers the incident closed.

"We now hope for a return to a climate of total sporting spirit."

Ferrari concluded by calling on supporters of the prancing horse to get behind the team for the next instalment of the Grand Prix circus at Monza on Sunday week.

Ferrari's statement falls a long way short of the call Monday for a Schumacher apology from Mercedes sports division chief Norbert Haug.

He said angry Ferrari fans had already thrown cans of beer at Coulthard in Belgium.

"A Schumacher apology

would calm things down. The situation could degen-

erate at Monza and we must avoid that," he warned.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSHI
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BACK YOUR JUDGMENT

East-West vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
♠ K Q 10 3
♥ K 5
♦ A J 8 2
♣ K 9 5

WEST
♠ J 7 6
♥ J 10 9 5 3
♦ 5
♣ A Q 7 4

EAST
♠ 8 2
♥ A 7 2
♦ Q 10 9 3
♣ J 6 3 2

SOUTH
♠ A 8 5 4
♥ Q 8 4
♦ K 7 6 4
♣ 10 9

The bidding:
EAST SOUTH WEST NORTH
Pass Pass 20 Pass 4x
Pass Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Five of ♣

Sometimes the opening lead will paint a picture of the whole hand. At other times you may have to back your card-playing ability and plan the play accordingly.

All we can say about West's weak two-heart bid in third seat is to each his own. North's double was textbook and since the queen of hearts was a doubtful value, South stretched to make an invitational jump to three spades, which North

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Iran to keep its forces on Afghan border after games

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran stepped up political and military pressure on the Taliban Islamic militia controlling Afghanistan Wednesday, but newspapers here warned against intervention in its strife-torn neighbour.

Revolutionary Guards commander General Rahim Safavi said his forces will remain near the Afghan border even after the end of three days of military exercises there. More than 70,000 Revolutionary Guards from land and air forces and volunteers began Tuesday their largest-ever exercises in northeastern Iran amid mounting tension with the Taliban.

"The troops and equipment taking part in the Ashura-3 manoeuvres in the northeast of the country will not be withdrawn," said Safavi.

The general's comments came a day after the foreign ministry warned the Taliban to free a journalist and 10 diplomats it has allegedly seized in Afghanistan "or face a harsh response" from Iran.

"The Taliban and its backers are the main reason

behind the great manoeuvre," foreign ministry spokesman Mahmoud Mohammadi said.

"If the Taliban choose not to play it straight on the fate of the diplomats, they will face a severe response from us," he said. "This manoeuvre is aimed at those who disregard international norms and seek to damage our national interests and security."

Iran has also called on the United Nations to send an international mission to look into the fate of the diplomats, who were allegedly seized by the militia after its takeover on August 8 of Mazar-i-Sharif, a city in northern Afghanistan previously controlled by Iranian-backed Afghan opposition forces.

Foreign Ministry official Mohsen Aminzadeh said Tehran wants representatives of the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross as well as Iran and Pakistan to go to Afghanistan.

Although Tehran has officially limited its demands to the release of the diplomats, it realises there is much

more at stake if the Islamist Taliban militia continues to rule over Afghanistan, where Shiite Iran has traditionally commanded great cultural and political influence.

In addition to other parts of Afghanistan, the militia controls three provinces bordering Iran, which used to be a hub of commercial activity between the two neighbours.

"The presence of Taliban in Herat, Farah and Nimruz could turn the three provinces into a hotbed of chaos and insecurity," said Qods newspaper which is based in Khorasan province bordering Pakistan.

"The militia could band together small groups of saboteurs and send them across the border for terrorist activities. Or they could send off drug caravans into Iran or allow Iranian anti-revolutionaries to use Afghanistan as a base for aggression against Iran," it warned.

The headline daily Jomhuri Islami went even further and warned Iran's other eastern neighbour, Pakistan, as well as Saudi Arabia and the United

States — countries which Iran has accused of inventing the militia with the aim of countering Iran's influence in the region.

"The manoeuvre is also a clear warning to conspirators who have entered action in the name of the Taliban, but that their ugly faces are evident behind the mask," it said.

Other newspapers sounded more cautious notes. "Iran should not get militarily involved in Afghanistan because the United States is waiting for such an opportunity," said Kayhan Hawaii weekly.

Qods newspaper warned against military intervention for different reasons.

"The militiamen are strenuous fighters with strong discipline. They fight like they have nothing to lose," it said. "Moreover, the war-torn and famine-stricken Afghanistan has no appeal to the world and the Taliban will like nothing more than to draw a country like Iran into a conflict."

"The best way to deal with a movement of bandits and outlaws is to completely ignore them, while we stay militarily ready," it said.



MATRESHKAS FOR SALE: Famous Russian matreshka dolls depict Russian President Boris Yeltsin and U.S. President Bill Clinton as they are on a display in downtown Moscow, on Wednesday. President Clinton is in Russia on a second day of a three-day summit (AP photo)

Yeltsin, a loaf of heavy Russian bread

MOSCOW (R) — U.S. President Bill Clinton paid tribute to Boris Yeltsin's ability to bounce back under pressure — or at least that's what he seemed to be doing when he compared the Kremlin leader to a loaf of heavy Russian bread. Clinton was greeted at the start of his two-day Kremlin summit with a traditional Russian offering of bread and salt. Squeezing the solid black loaf with his hand, Clinton watched it spring quickly back into shape. "It's amazing. Just like you," he said, turning to the Russian president, who is sunk in his country's worst but by no means first crisis in years.

A menacing welcome message to pupils

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's tax police congratulated pupils on their first day back at school with a menacing message that their future would be ruined if their parents tried to hide their income from the authorities. "The Russian State Tax Service wishes you success in the new school year and financial success to your parents. We are certain that in the future you will become highly professional specialists and conscientious taxpayers," it said in a statement. "Every student and schoolchild must understand that, if his parents do not pay tax, this will deprive the child of his right to free education, in fact depriving him of his future," it said.

Liberal Party's electronic low blow

CANBERRA (R) — A computer hacker has struck the first low blow in Australia's election campaign by breaking into the ruling Liberal Party's official website, changing ministers' titles and adding links to hard-core sex sites. Internet surfers hoping for information on senior Liberals, Monday would have found the prime minister renamed "The Dishonourable John Howard, Prime Minister, Minister for Pain, Suffering and Inequity." A Liberal Party spokesman said the offending pages had been removed from the site.

To the cleaners or apologise

WINNIPEG (R) — A 230-pound woman who was denied a chance to strip at a Winnipeg area nightclub said she planned to take the establishment "to the cleaners" if it does not apologise. Sherry Van Rooy, AKA Scarlet, told Reuters she was humiliated when the disc jockey at the club, at the Balmoral Motor Hotel, refused to allow her on stage on amateur night. "He said I'm overweight, I'm fat, and an embarrassment and disgrace to the hotel."

Conned into sex with a gigolo

HONG KONG (R) — A woman was conned into having sex with a gigolo three times, believing it would lift the curse plaguing her ex-boyfriend and could reunite them. Hong Kong newspapers said. The 46-year-old woman told the court a man claiming to be her ex-lover had told her over the telephone to sleep with a male prostitute so that his bad luck could be shifted to someone else, local newspapers said. She said she paid \$474 for the sex services and asked the gigolo, 31, to pass on another \$1,153 to her former boyfriend, newspapers said.

Iran to try German firms over chemical weapons sales to Iraq

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran said Wednesday it would try eight German companies accused of supplying chemical weapons to Iraq during their 1980-88 war and causing the deaths of thousands of people.

Fotovat Nassiri Savadkuhi, the director of the judiciary's public relations office, did not name the companies or say when their trial would start.

"Because of the large number of plaintiffs, it will take some time before we will investigate the cases," he told the official IRNA news agency, adding that around 600 victims of chemical attacks during the war had already filed suit.

"The chemical weapons material provided to Iraq by German companies martyred 10,000 people and disabled 50,000 others," Nassiri added. "As export-

ing chemical weapons to be used against humanity is against our Iranian laws and international conventions, these cases are worthy of investigation."

He said partially disabled victims had demanded compensation of 500,000 German marks (\$280,000) while those more seriously disabled and families of the "martyrs" had asked for one million marks (\$560,000).

The official said the judiciary had evidence in video tapes, such as "confessions" from Iraqi military commanders captured by Iran during the war, "showing these German companies collaborated with the Iraqi regime in the production of chemical weapons."

Other evidence included U.N. reports at the time and investigations launched by Iran's defence ministry as well as medical and clinical

reports, he said.

"U.N. experts have confirmed that chemical weapons manufactured in Germany have been used for these criminal acts," he said.

Iran raised the issue about two years ago during an investigation by a German court into the Islamic regime's alleged role in the 1992 murder of four Kurd dissidents in a Berlin restaurant.

The judiciary then encouraged the veterans to come forward and sue a number of unidentified German firms, which are alleged to have supplied the Iraqi regime with such weapons.

Bonn has said that several German pharmaceutical companies helped Iraq build agricultural plants, but that the factories were later modified to produce chemical weapons.

Iran calls for U.N. probe into missing diplomats

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran has called on the United Nations to send an international mission to look into the fate of diplomats it says are being held captive by the hardline Taliban militia in neighbouring Afghanistan.

Foreign Ministry official Mohsen Aminzadeh complained about the Taliban's "contradictory statements" about the fate of the Iranian nationals, and called for their release, saying Iran firmly believed they were alive.

He said Tehran wants representatives of the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross as well as Iran and Pakistan to go to Afghanistan, the official IRNA news agency reported.

Iran says 10 diplomats and journalist were seized by the militia after its takeover on August 8 of Mazar-e-Sharif, a city in northern Afghanistan which was previously controlled by Iranian-backed Afghan opposition forces.

"The Taliban who seized Mazar-e-Sharif and took them prisoner are responsible for their security," Aminzadeh said.

IRNA said Monday that the Taliban had admitted holding the diplomats and an IRNA correspondent near Kandahar, a Taliban stronghold in eastern Afghanistan.

But Taliban leader Mohammad Omar said in an interview with the BBC on the same day that the militia had no knowledge of the diplomats' whereabouts.

The Taliban Tuesday asked for U.N. mediation to ease tensions with Iraq, which launched unprecedented military exercises the same day on their common border.

PNA: Israel preventing Gazan students from study

GAZA (R) — The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) on Wednesday said Israel was preventing hundreds of Gaza students from travelling to universities in the West Bank.

"It is a completely inhumane action," said Imad Al Fallouji, the Palestinian telecommunications minister. He joined several dozen protesters at a rally urging Israel to honour the right of Palestinians to pursue their studies freely.

Israeli officials said permits were limited for "security reasons."

"We recognise that students want to study but we have to be sure they will not endanger us," an Israeli spokesman said.

The spokesman said Israel granted 100 Gazans permits to travel to the West Bank for studies last year but that only 40 had accepted them.

The Palestinian ministry of higher education said it was "extremely concerned" about the inability of Palestinian students living in Gaza to attend West Bank universities.

According to the ministry, 500 Gazans were denied permits to travel to the West Bank for studies in the coming academic year.

It said another 500 had remained illegally in the West Bank since the end of the last semester after Israel refused to grant them permits to return to Gaza.

The PNA has full or partial control over most of Gaza and 27 per cent of the West Bank under interim peace deals reached with Israel since 1993.

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Weizman continues consultations on early election despite criticism

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli President Ezer Weizman defended himself Wednesday against criticism for sounding out political leaders on the prospects of an early general election.

Weizman, whose largely ceremonial post gives him no power to set an election date, called publicly in June for an early vote over right-wing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's handling of Middle East peace talks.

His call sparked a bitter row with Netanyahu, whose term runs until 2000. Weizman now has begun consulting politicians for their views on the prospects for a vote.

"I am doing what I think I have to do as president at an hour when the state finds itself in a crisis," Weizman told Israeli army radio.

"Whoever thinks the country isn't in a state of crisis let him come and tell me," Weizman, 74, spoke out as parliament's law committee met to discuss a bill to dissolve the 120-seat Knesset.

The draft legislation went to the committee after passing a preliminary vote in the full house on July 29 in what constituted a slap in the face for Netanyahu.

Practically, however, the bill must be endorsed by the committee and pass three more readings in the Knesset to become law, a process which could take months.

Peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians have been paralysed for months. Each side blames the other for the impasse.

Weizman in June accused Netanyahu of deceiving him over his peacekeeping intentions and said the process was "limping."

Over the past several days, he has met opposition Labour Party leader Ehud Barak, deputy cabinet minister, Michael Eitan, and the parliamentary chairman of Netanyahu's government coalition, Meir Shitreet.

Shitreet played down the significance of the meetings, saying the controversy was "just a tempest in a teacup."

"Weizman called me. He wanted to hear my assessment on what is going on in the peace process and the chances that the bill for early elections will pass," Shitreet told Reuters.

He said he told Weizman he did not expect the dissolution bill to succeed if there was progress in the

peace talks.

Weizman was also due Wednesday to meet former Foreign Minister David Levy, who quit Netanyahu's government in January over socio-economic issues and the slow pace of peacemaking.

The Israeli head of state, a sharp-tongued former air force pilot who helped forge peace with Egypt 20 years ago, has faced criticism from both sides of the political divide for alleged political interference.

Dede Zucker, a member of parliament for the left-wing Meretz Party, said he agreed with Weizman's views but added that the president was not in a position to express them.

"The president cannot deal with a matter which is so political," Zucker told Israeli Radio. "What he wants to replace the Knesset? Someone elected him as a Knesset member?"

No. Netanyahu's office has not commented in public on Weizman's latest contacts. Maariv newspaper, however, quoted an unidentified source there as saying "the time has come to stop taking this man [Weizman] seriously."

Kuwait finds attack threat to U.S. Manila embassy

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaiti authorities have found a handwritten note aboard a commercial airliner warning of a September 4 attack against the U.S. embassy in the Philippines, an official spokesman said Wednesday.

"The note was in English and it was found aboard Emirates Flight 103 from Dubai to Kuwait on Tuesday," Interior Ministry spokesman Colonel Badr Al Saleh told Reuters.

"It was placed in a visible area in one of the bathrooms... Whoever placed it wanted the note found," he added.

Authorities questioned all the passengers and took handwriting samples from all the people on board the aircraft to compare them with the note.

"Samples from three male passengers were similar to the note and they were questioned," said the colonel. The fate of the

three, all from the Indian subcontinent, was not immediately known.

"We first thought there was a bomb threat, then some said it was related to narcotics," an aviation source said, describing the commotion around the Emirates aircraft and its passengers.

Saleh said the Emirates aircraft later left Kuwait after it was swept for bombs.

In Manila, the government alerted its top security body in response to the report although a government spokesman told Reuters: "This is the first time we have heard about this..."

The note was the latest threat received in Kuwait against Western interests since last month's twin bombings at U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania which killed 263 people and injured more

than 5,000.

Diplomatic sources earlier said that some Western embassies in Kuwait, including the British mission, had in recent days received "unspecific threats."

Western embassies in the region "take all such threats seriously and continue to monitor security measures at embassies and for staff and citizens," one diplomat said.

"We noted this latest note with interest," said one non-U.S. diplomat.

Security around Western interests in Kuwait and the region, including embassies and military installations, is traditionally tight but it was stepped up further in recent months in response to threats by Saudi dissident Osama Ben Laden, who in May declared a holy war against U.S. forces in his homeland.

U.N. report: Population explosion isn't over

LONDON (AP) — The largest-ever generation of young people in every continent except Europe will ensure that the human race will continue to grow until at least the middle of the next century, the U.N. Population Fund said Wednesday.

And global population is likely "to go on growing slowly after that for perhaps 50 more years," Nafis Sadik, the fund's executive director, said at a news conference launching its annual report.

While falling fertility, smaller families and improved health care have slowed the annual rate of population growth, the

legacy of past high fertility is an unprecedented number of teenagers approaching their childbearing years, the agency said.

Global population is still increasing by more than 80 million people every year and will pass six billion in 1999. It will reach somewhere between 7.7 billion and 11.1 billion by 2050 — most likely 9.4 billion, according to U.N. projections.

"This means population may grow as much or more in the next 50 years than in the past 50 years," the report said, not-

ing that there were only 2.5 billion people in 1950.

The composition of the world's population is also changing.

Today's generation of young people is the biggest in history, Sadik said, with more than one billion young people between the ages of 15 and 24 entering their most fertile years.

"These young people will decide whether family size continues to decline," she said.

The slowdown in population growth has improved the lives of billions of peo-

ple in developing countries, where family size has fallen by half in the last 30 years, Sadik said.

"It helped to drive the Asian economic miracle," she said.

"It can help the staggering Asian economies to get back on their feet, and it can help create the conditions for economic recovery in Africa."

"These are possibilities, not predictions. Families are smaller today and people are better off because we took action. And action is still needed, perhaps more than ever before." The report

said that young people "need more and better education and information about sexuality, how to avoid pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, and how to respect the rights of partners, so they can make responsible decisions" [including the option of delaying sexual activity]. While the younger generation is increasing, the number and proportion of adults over the age of 65 is increasing at an unprecedented rate, according to the Population Fund.